

British teachers told to 'bash and dash' pupils

LONDON (AFP) — British teachers faced with growing school violence have been advised by one of their unions to "bash and dash" when confronted with an aggressive pupil. The teachers' union said it was making recommendations in response to a growing number of reports of children attacking teachers. "If a teacher is being punched, he should punch back," the union said.

Martin Sheen — new Mother Teresa?

MANILA (AFP) — U.S. actor Martin Sheen on Wednesday visited Manila in the Philippines capital, where he was to deliver a speech. He was accompanied by a group of nuns. "I'm a man who's interested in finding out what's going on in the world," he said. "I'm not a religious man, but I'm a spiritual man."

Man longs for 'meaningful relationship' with Travolta's wife

MIAMI (AFP) — John Travolta's wife, Kelly Preston, is reportedly looking for a "meaningful relationship" with her husband's former manager, John DeLorean. DeLorean is currently in jail on charges of fraud. Preston is said to be "very close" to DeLorean.

Prince Charles' love letters from Camilla stolen

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles' love letters from his wife, Camilla, have been stolen. The letters were found in a trash can at the prince's residence. The prince's spokesman said the letters were "personal and confidential."

Virility links Lapps and Australian Aborigines

STURKHOVEN (AFP) — A study has found a link between the virility of Lapps in Sweden and Australian Aborigines. The study found that both groups have a high percentage of a certain gene, which is associated with high testosterone levels.

## King receives call from Mubarak

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday night received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who inquired about the King's health. Jordan Television announced on Friday, King Hussein and President Mubarak discussed over the phone the Middle East peace process and the obstacles facing its resumption, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The two leaders also discussed issues of common concern. Also on Thursday, King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted a dinner at their residence in the U.S. in honour of U.S. President Bill Clinton, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

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# King, Clinton discuss peace, Iraq-U.N. crisis

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday held talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the faltering peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the Iraqi-U.N. crisis and bilateral relations.

King Hussein and President Clinton stressed the need for overcoming the current obstacles in order to achieve aspired peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended on the American side by U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, and the United States National Security Adviser Sandy Berger as well as other senior U.S. officials.

From the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S., Marwan Muasher. Earlier Friday, King Hussein telephoned Jordan Television and expressed his appreciation for the sincere emotions the Jordanian family expressed and assured the people of his good health.

The King said that he will return home within few days. White House Spokesman Michael McCurry said that the two leaders saw each other late Thursday at a birthday celebration for King Hussein.

Also on Thursday, King Hussein met with U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, and discussed the peace process and the current obstacles causing the deadlock on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

King Hussein reaffirmed the need for pooling all efforts for giving a push



forward to the peace process and urged the U.S. administration to help give the peoples of the Middle East a renewed confidence in the importance of peace and the possibility of achieving it.

The King reaffirmed the need for all parties to be committed to the implementation of all agreements, and the need for all parties to refrain from taking any unilateral measures that constitute obstacles in the path of peace and shake the confidence among the concerned parties.

King Hussein also received a telephone call from U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan during which they discussed the U.N.-Iraq crisis. The King underlined the need for resolving the current crisis through diplomatic means.

King Hussein called Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and discussed

the U.N.-Iraq crisis stressing that Iraq ought to maintain its cooperation with the U.N. Security Council for the sake of resolving the crisis through peaceful means and for averting further sufferings of the Iraqi people.

King Hussein received a cable from HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressing his good wishes and those of the Jordanian people on the occasion of the King's birthday.

In his cable, Prince Hassan also expressed his congratulations and those of the Jordanian people over the success of the minor surgery which the King underwent at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

The King's private physician Samir Farraj has said that all medical tests showed that the King was in good health following the removal of a lymphatic gland under his left armpit.

# Annan says next 48 hours crucial on Iraq; Clinton orders five more warships to Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS to settle the crisis with Iraq over weapons inspections gathered steam Friday with Secretary General Kofi Annan saying the "next 24 to 48 hours" will be crucial.

"The consultations are going to continue. The next 24 to 48 hours will determine what the next moves will be," Mr. Annan told reporters at the U.N.

Six U.S. arms inspectors serving with the United Nations arrived in Jordan at dawn Friday after driving from Baghdad following their expulsion from Iraq.

The six, accompanied by one British and one Australian colleague, were greeted on a cold morning by British and U.S. diplomats at the Karameh border post, 400 km east of Amman.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton ordered the aircraft carrier George Washington to the Gulf amid the tense standoff with Iraq accompanied by four ships, including a guided missile cruiser, a destroyer, an attack submarine and an oiler, the Pentagon said Friday.

The ships are the guided missile cruiser USS Normandy, the destroyer USS Carney, the attack submarine USS Annapolis, and the oiler USS Seattle, a Pentagon spokesman said.

The cruiser, destroyer and submarine are all capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles, the Pentagon said.

The U.N. inspectors flew out of Jordan Friday afternoon to Bahrain, where the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament Iraq has a support base.

Another 68 U.N. arms experts arrived in Bahrain on Friday after being evacuated in solidarity with their U.S. colleagues.

The six Americans left Baghdad at 11 p.m. local time Thursday after Iraq's top authorities, the Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the ruling Baath Party, ordered their "immediate" expulsion.

Baghdad refused to let them leave by air with the other UNSCOM members, whose withdrawal was announced by its head, Richard Butler, following the expulsion of the Americans.

Iraq's definitive expulsion order came after the Security Council imposed a travel ban on Iraqi officials who block inspections and suspended any review of the sanctions in

## Iraq 'has been put in prison' — Aziz

NEW YORK (AFP) — Pressing the case for an end to nearly seven years of economic sanctions, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said his nation had been "put in prison" with no hope for the future.

"We have no other option," he said in an interview on Cable News Network.

"A whole nation has been put in prison. A whole nation is suffering from sanctions, comprehensive sanctions, cruel sanctions," he said. "What else should we do? What hope do we have for the future?"

Mr. Aziz also renewed a threat to shoot down a U.S.-manned U-2 spy plane that the United Nations has ordered to carry out a reconnaissance mission over Iraq, which he argued had possibly as early as Sunday.

"They have to stop sending

that plane, it's not needed," he said. "It is going to provoke confrontation."

The Iraqi envoy who arrived here Monday to lobby for an end to sanctions also complained bitterly that he was not allowed to address the U.N. Security Council.

The Security Council on Wednesday voted unanimously to impose new sanctions on Iraq and demanded that Baghdad reverse its decision to bar Americans from U.N. weapons inspections.

Iraq responded by expelling the U.S. nationals working for the U.N. commission monitoring Iraqi disarmament.

During the interview, Mr. Aziz said the U.S. was profiting from the oil embargo on Iraq, which he argued had allowed Saudi Arabia to increase its oil revenues.



A member of the group of U.N. weapons inspectors is seen as he carries his bags after arriving in Jordan at dawn Friday at the Karameh borderpoint (Photo by Yousef 'Allan')

Robertson said on Wednesday that the Invincible is on its way to Gibraltar as a "precautionary measure," but the decision was seen as part of preparations to support any American action against Iraq.

The 20,000-ton Invincible is equipped with six Sea Harrier vertical takeoff and landing jets, eight anti-submarine Sea King helicopters and three early warning Sea Kings. It has a crew of about 2,000.

On Friday, Derek Fatchett, a junior minister in Mr. Cook's department, told parliament in London that Britain was also putting a squadron of six air force Harriers equipped with laser-guided bombs on 48-hour notice to back up its forces deployed around the Gulf.

Ms. Albright arrived in Britain on Friday on the first leg of a round-the-world trip on which she will make a fresh attempt to persuade Israeli and Palestinian leaders to put the Middle East peace process back on track.

She had planned to fly straight to London to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was there on a two-day visit. But the Iraqi crisis pushed his way into the forefront of her

agenda and she stopped in Edinburgh, where Mr. Cook, a Scotsman, routinely spends Fridays, to discuss Iraq with him before flying to London.

Ms. Albright also was due to travel to Bern in Switzerland to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Saturday.

Mr. Cook denied earlier on Friday that President Saddam had effectively defeated U.N. efforts to keep Iraq from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

"No, he has not won. This is not the end of the present crisis and we are determined, and resolved that he is not going to win," Mr. Cook told BBC Radio.

"We are determined that we have to win this because it is so very important that Saddam Hussein does not acquire weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Cook said.

"We are determined that the United Nations regime must be maintained and that those inspectors must return," Mr. Cook added.

The foreign secretary declined to discuss military options but said "it is quite right that we should make sure that we are capable of responding to any crisis in the region."

## PNA to boycott Doha conference

GAZA (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will boycott the regional economic conference in Qatar on Nov. 16-18 to protest against Israeli policies, the cabinet of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat decided Friday, officials said.

More over Israel announced Thursday that Foreign Minister David Levy would not lead its delegation to a Middle East economic conference in Doha beginning this weekend. The Israeli delegation

will instead be headed by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and include the head of the Bank of Israel and 30 other business people, the foreign ministry said.

"Because of the economic character of the conference, it is best that the head of the delegation will be a top economic official," said a curt release from the ministry.

Israeli officials earlier said they expected Mr. Levy would not participate in the conference because

Arab states were either boycotting the Nov. 16-18 forum or sending lower-level delegations without foreign ministers.

Washington had reportedly pressed Israel to send Mr. Levy to the Doha forum as a sign of Israel's interest in pursuing the peace process. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will attend the meeting.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia led the list of states boycotting the meeting.

## Lebanon refuses to sign anti-landmine treaty before it is ratified by Israel

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon said Friday that it will not sign the international treaty banning anti-personnel mines before Israel, which occupies part of southern Lebanon, ratifies the agreement.

"It is absolutely impossible to drag Lebanon into signing such a treaty as long as Israel does not abide by the treaty," said Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez after a meeting here with Canadian counterpart Lloyd Axworthy.

Mr. Axworthy arrived Thursday in Beirut for a 24-hour visit, part of a Middle East tour aimed at convincing regional governments to sign the global treaty banning anti-personnel mines due to be sealed in Ottawa

in December. The Canadian foreign minister, who is also due to hold talks with President Elias Hrawi and parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, was expected to meet child victims of landmine accidents in the southern port city of Sidon.

A Lebanese government official said Lebanon will not sign the mines treaty because such "weapons are used by the Lebanese resistance against the Israeli enemy, which occupies parts of southern Lebanon."

Combatants on both sides of the border zone occupied by Israel inside southern Lebanon plant landmines to deter attacks, but most of the mine victims are Lebanese civilians.

Mr. Axworthy said the talks also focused on the stalled Middle East peace talks, economic cooperation and bilateral political relations.

They also covered the condition of thousands of Lebanese families who emigrated to Canada during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, as well as the problems of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Canada presides over the working group for refugees within the Middle East multilateral peace negotiations.

Mr. Axworthy has already visited Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas on his Middle East tour. He is due next in Syria.

# Israel rejects U.N. resolution of 139 votes against 3 on Israeli settlement policies

Resolution criticises 'occupying power' for illegal activities in 'occupied' Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in particular settlement activities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel on Friday rejected a U.N. resolution condemning its Jewish settlement policies as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepared for talks in London with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (see story on page 12).

"Jewish construction in the territories does not represent a violation of the Oslo accords [signed with the Palestinians]," said Dore Gold, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations.

"We also cannot accept that Israel freezes construction while Palestinians also build in zones under Israeli

control," Mr. Gold told Israeli public radio.

On Thursday, 139 countries in the U.N. General Assembly voted for a resolution which criticises Israel, "the occupying power," for illegal activities in "the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in particular settlement activities."

The U.S. Israel and Micronesia opposed it and 13 countries abstained.

But the resolution is largely symbolic because General Assembly resolutions are not binding.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is currently on a four-day visit to London, is due to meet U.S. Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright there on Friday. Ms. Albright will then meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Switzerland on Saturday (see story on page 12).

The White House said on Thursday that Mr. Netanyahu would meet President Bill Clinton in Washington, probably early next month, the White House said.

"We are zeroing in on early December," said White House spokesman P.J. Crowley, adding that no precise date has been set.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is to travel in the U.S. from Sunday to Tuesday, is scheduled to meet with U.S. Jewish

leaders in Indianapolis, Indiana, before heading to Los Angeles to speak before the local Jewish community there, but there are no meetings planned with Mr. Clinton on this trip.

It is unprecedented for an Israeli prime minister to visit the U.S. without meeting the president, and some suggested it reflected the increasing tensions between the two countries over the stalled Mideast peace process.

But Mr. Crowley dismissed that interpretation. "This is simply a matter of scheduling. As we've said all along, it is not a question of if we would meet, just when we could do it," he said.

The White House has repeatedly asked Mr. Netanyahu to call a "time out" on the construction of new Jewish settlements in a bid to put the peace process back on track, but the Israeli premier has steadfastly refused.

The breakdown in Israel-Palestinian peace talks was triggered when Israel started work in mid-March on a Jewish settlement project known as Jhalal Abu Ghneim in east Jerusalem.

Israel was also condemned for its settlement building in non-binding resolutions adopted at earlier U.N. General Assembly meetings.



# Israel kidnaps two Hamas members from Palestinian custody — official

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers seized two Hamas members detained by Palestinian security services while they were being transferred between two autonomous West Bank towns, Palestinian officials said Friday.

"It was an act of piracy by the Israeli government," a senior Palestinian security

official told Agence France Presse (AFP).

An Israeli military spokesman said the two militants — Abdul Rahman Ghanimat and Jamal Al Hour — were picked up at an Israeli roadblock on Thursday night near the Palestinian-ruled town of Nablus.

He said another 10 Palestinians escorting the prison-

ers, including several Palestinian National Authority (PNA) security officials, were detained briefly and then released.

The Palestinian security official said the two Hamas militants had been held for several months in the West Bank city of Hebron and were in the process of being transferred to Nablus jail when

they were seized.

The PNA systematically rejects requests from Israel to hand over militants in its custody, but Israel continues to demand their extradition.

The two members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) are suspected of involvement in six anti-Israeli attacks between 1995 and 1997 which left 11

Israelis dead.

They belong to a Hamas cell in the village of Sourif near Hebron which has been accused of carrying out a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe in March which left three Israelis dead, and the kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier last year. Four Hamas activists from Sourif are already in Israeli custody.



BETHLEHEM CLASHES: A Palestinian police officer wearing a gas mask assists an elderly man to safely cross a street where Israeli soldiers fired teargas at Palestinian stone-throwers in Bethlehem Friday. Dozens of demonstrators calling for the release of Palestinians from Israeli jails clashed with Israeli soldiers stationed at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem (AP photo)

## Netanyahu accuses Palestinians of releasing suicide-bomb mastermind

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of freeing the mastermind of a suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv, Israeli radio reported.

Speaking on a visit to London Thursday, Mr. Netanyahu alleged the Palestinians had recently released a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) who had organized a bomb attack at the city's Dizengoff shopping centre in March 1996, killing 12 people and wounding

nearly 70, the radio said.

Mr. Netanyahu's remarks came ahead of a meeting Friday with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who will have talks the following day with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in a bid to relaunch the peace process.

The radio said the Israeli prime minister would tell Ms. Albright that his government would not resume its military withdrawal from the West Bank unless the Palestinians cracked down on terrorism.

## Kuwait stays calm despite mounting tension in Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait was calm on Friday despite the mounting tension in Iraq after the expulsion of U.S. weapons inspectors, although Western embassies were monitoring developments over the border.

U.S. residents said they have been advised to make sure any official documents are up-to-date and to stay in contact with the embassy.

The message issued earlier in the week was not revised after Baghdad's decision on Thursday to expel U.S. inspectors who are members of a U.N. commission charged with dismantling Iraq.

The U.N. evacuated the rest of its weapons inspectors on Friday, leaving behind a skeleton staff.

Newspapers here on Fri-

day led with the developments in Iraq.

But a diplomat said there is little sign of heightened concern here because the present crisis is between Baghdad and the U.N., while there is "no direct threat to Kuwait."

By contrast, in September 1996, the last period of heightened tensions over Iraq, Kuwait was included in a U.S. military build-up in the region involving the temporary deployment here of F-117 Stealth bombers and extra troops.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said on Nov. 2 that the government is monitoring the situation closely, while parliament held a closed debate on Tuesday to discuss security issues. The parliamentary session was officially left open so MPs can be recalled at any time if developments warrant a meeting at short notice.

## Egyptian ambassador to Qatar returns to Doha

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's ambassador to Qatar returned to the Gulf state on Friday, a week after he was recalled home amid mounting tension over Egypt's decision to boycott the Doha economic forum.

Mohammed Menissi told reporters at Cairo airport he would be attending the opening ceremony of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference on Sunday and the closing ceremony

on Tuesday if he receives an invitation.

"The next few days will witness renewed strength [in Qatari-Egyptian ties] and I will meet with our brothers in Qatar," Mr. Menissi said.

"There are permanent consultations and understanding between us," he said, reiterating that Egypt decided to boycott the forum to protest at the policies of the Israeli government.

"Our decision to boycott the conference... stems from [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's refusal to heed to reason and implement the agreements" struck with President Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, Mr. Menissi said.

But in statements to the Egyptian weekly newspaper Al Ahran Al Arabi, the ambassador said ties with Qatar had been strained for the past year.

"My visit to Cairo underscores the determination of Egypt and Qatar to restore warmth to the Egyptian-Qatari relations which have met difficulties for nearly one year," Mr. Menissi told the paper's early Saturday edition, without elaborating.

Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jaber Thani reacted to President Hosni Mubarak's announcement of the boycott

by accusing Egypt of wanting to see a change of rule in Qatar.

"The [Egyptian] campaign of which we are currently the target is not directed at the Doha economic conference, but it is aimed at Qatar," he said. He said the crisis follows "the failure of the coup d'état which took place in the country two years ago. I think that our brothers in Egypt are still shocked by the failure of the coup d'état."

## Francophone group has peace-making role — Lebanese premier

HANOI (AFP) — The Francophone world has a vital role to play as a peace-maker in world conflicts, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said here Friday addressing the opening of a summit of French-speaking countries and regions.

"Through a firm support for the United Nations, through strengthening preventive diplomacy, the community of French-speaking states could

be able to avoid, or ease conflicts or put an end to them," he told some 2,000 delegates from 48 members gathered here.

The Francophone countries press for "conciliation and rapprochement," he added, urging members to "work to promote democratic values, to safeguard human rights and respect the rights of the minorities."

However, Mr. Hariri warned

that it was not enough to just apply such principles within the borders of the "Francophone family."

"We have to denounce loudly those who do not respect these values whoever they are. That is why we say 'no' to terrorism and 'yes' to the liberation of territories occupied by force. Chaos cannot be a source of prosperity and no constraints will ever make free men bend."

He called on the gathering to back U.N. resolutions calling for Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon where they have occupied a narrow border strip since 1985, as well as the Syrian Golan Heights.

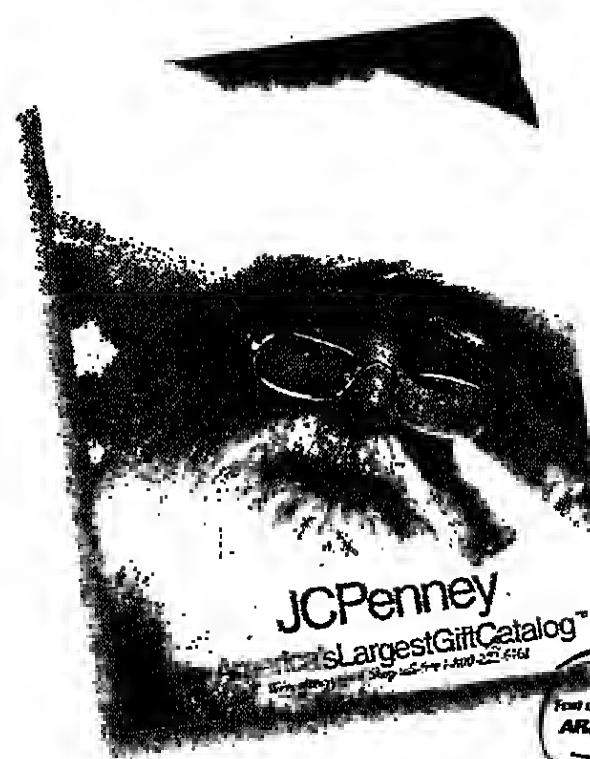
During "Operation Grapes of Wrath" launched by Israel in April 1996, France played a key role in helping to mediate an end to the Israeli attacks.

France along with Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and the Unit-

ed States are represented on a committee monitoring compliance with the 1996 peace accord which prohibits Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas from targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas.

At least 32 Lebanese civilians have been killed and 116 injured in the violence in south Lebanon this year, according to an AFP count. One Israeli civilian was wounded during the same period.

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JCPenney CATALOG

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 ..... Twinkle  
14:30 ..... Muppet Show  
15:00 ..... Pumpkin Patch  
15:15 ..... World of Geo  
16:00 ..... The Valley Between  
16:30 ..... Neighbours  
17:00 ..... French programmes  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:30 ..... News headlines  
20:00 ..... The Newly Weds  
20:30 ..... Prism  
21:10 ..... Time Trax  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "Awakenings"  
23:59 ..... Ellen

### PRAYER TIMES

04:39 ..... Fair  
05:59 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:20 ..... Dhuhr  
14:16 ..... 'Asr  
16:41 ..... Maghreb  
18:01 ..... 'Isha

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Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
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De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
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### Church of the Annunciation

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Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
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Tel. 771331.  
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St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
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The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.

### Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department  
of Meteorology  
Fine and sunny weather conditions  
will prevail during the day becoming  
cool at night and winds southeasterly  
moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be  
northerly, moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.,  
Amman ..... 10/24  
Aqaba ..... 16/30  
Deserts ..... 10/24  
Jordan Valley ..... 16/30

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 23 Aqaba 29 Humidity  
readings: Amman 27 per cent,  
Aqaba 22 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 675485  
Dr. Khalil Jhali ..... 784450  
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab ..... 758848  
Dr. Youssef Rashid ..... 875792  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir ..... 276852  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh ..... 982799

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192 ..... 621111.  
637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 603800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 661101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644281/6  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Munasher Hospital ..... 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikam Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990

### IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100

### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)14111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
08:25 ..... Damascus (RJ)

09:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)

09:55 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
15:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:40 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
21:40 ..... Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
04:45 ..... Doha (add) (RJ)  
05:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
05:15 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:30 ..... Al 'Arish (PF)  
13:15 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:05 ..... Vienna (OS)  
18:00 ..... Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
21:10 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:15 ..... London (BA)  
22:30 ..... Athens (OA)  
22:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
23:30 ..... London, Beirut (BA)  
23:35 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
23:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
03:25 ..... Rome (AZ)

### Royal Wings (RW)

(No flights on Saturday)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
05:00 ..... Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
06:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
09:35 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)

11:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:00 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Aqaba, Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ..... London (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:55 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
20:05 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Bombay (RJ)  
20:20 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Doha (add) (RJ)  
23:59 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
05:30 ..... Aqaba (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

07:00 ..... Beirut (ME)  
07:35 ..... Damascus, London (BA)  
10:30 ..... Al 'Arish (PF)  
14:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
14:45 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
19:00 ..... Doha (add) (RJ)  
23:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
23:45 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
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03:00 ..... Athens (OA)  
04:20 ..... Beirut (ME





## Prime minister to attend annual international air expo in UAE

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is scheduled to leave today for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on an official visit to attend the country's annual international air exhibition, due to open in Dubai Sunday.

The invitation was extended by UAE Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to Dr. Majali in his capacity as minister of defence, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al-Dustour.

Dr. Majali will hold talks with a number of UAE officials on means of promoting Jordanian-UAE cooperation in several fields, the report said.

Jordanian Ambassador to the UAE Samir Hmoud, in an interview by telephone with Al-Dustour, said the invitation to attend the exhibition in Dubai was also extended to senior officers in the Jordan Armed Forces.

## Technology show highlights problems, innovations in Internet development

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The inadequate condition of Jordan's infrastructure is delaying the expansion of the Internet and the Information Technology sector, according to Wisam Edghaim, National Equipment and Technical Services (NETS) sales and marketing manager, at Middle East Technology Show (METS) 97.

"Jordanian infrastructure [using copper wire] was laid down in the early seventies and does not support data transmission, thereby hindering the growth of the IT industry. We need a whole new fibre optic network," Mr. Edghaim explained at the tech fair, which was inaugurated by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania Thursday.

Mr. Edghaim said NETS is working closely with the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation "to solve [the] problem."

In light of the poor transmission quality of the telephone lines in the Kingdom, the leading ISP in Jordan, Global One, is providing a download technology through a satellite connection, whereby users connected through a modem can download at ultra-fast speeds, said Ashraf Ayoub, Global's assistant sales manager.

Jordanian users still suffer from slow transmission speeds in comparison to ISP subscribers around the globe, according to observers.

The X25, a highly secure transfer network used mostly by banks and large corporations, is another service that Global has recently introduced, said Sami Smeirat, another Global assistant sales manager attending the computer expo.

Asked by the Jordan Times why the X25 is immune to hackers, Internet surfers whose main aim is to "crack" secure transmission services available on the Worldwide Wide Web, Mr. Smeirat said "what makes the X25 highly secure is the way that it segments data into parts, and then the router [Internet transmission hardware] sends the segments through different routes along the X25 network."

Offering only a Bulletin Board Subscription (BBS) service, access to an on-line database of subscribers letters and information, Primus BBS sales and marketing manager, Amer Nasereddin, said his company, through Primus' Intranet, was targeting the on-line shopping market.

Application for one bank's credit card and order of food deliveries for a number of restaurants are now available through Primus, according to Mr. Nasereddin.

Also on the Primus agenda is the establishment of a comprehensive database on Jordan that Mr. Nasereddin said will include "everything from information on Jordanian companies to the papers needed for government department applications."

In reply to a question whether users could apply for official documents through Primus's service, Mr. Nasereddin said "this service was not available."

Marketing its service through an interactive interface, Primus offers four different on-line games where users can play against each other, said Mr. Nasereddin.

The yet-to-come Jordan Internet Network's (JOINET) Marketing and Sales Manager Tariq Bitar said JOINET would offer new services such as voice mail, content censorship upon request, and a games server. The new ISP will be testing in mid-December in a bid to launch at the start of next year, said Mr. Bitar.

Produced by a recent merger between web developer CyberNet and the well-known Amman Financial Market (AFM) shares information provider Access, Access to Arabia is offering a "cost effective" Intranet solution that "has been adopted by a number of institutions in Jordan," according to Access marketing manager Saba Rabadi.

Lease lines, which are telephone lines dedicated solely to local area network connection, combined with communication software, will provide companies with ISP and e-mail boxes for all their employees through one Internet account, she said.

"[This software] can give up to 700 users separate e-mail boxes through one e-mail account," said Ms. Rabadi.

Access to Arabia's package also gives access to a number of information services, including AFM, Jordan news agency's (Petra) English transmission, currency-trade news, and profiles of Jordanian companies, said Ms. Rabadi.

At the multi-national level, Computer Applications and Technical Services' (CATS) offered an interactive system for running large corporations.

According to the demonstration given by CATS Systems Support Engineer George Sbmali, the system displays a corporation's network performance as graphical objects, such as a miniature of a town.

"The system solves a large amount of the everyday problems of large networks automatically," he said.

"It also detects physical problems that it cannot fix, but by detecting them it saves around 75 per cent of maintenance work time," he added.

Five companies from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip attended the computer fair and discussed difficulties in providing Internet services in the occupied territories.

One of the problems facing ISPs in Palestinian self-rule areas is the monopoly of the Israeli company Basic on necessary lease lines, explained Ala Alaeddin, general manager of the Ramallah-based Bailasan, an ISP and web-development corporation.

At present, the 6-month-old "Palestinian Communications Corporation is not allowed to provide lease lines, according to the Oslo accords," said Mr. Alaeddin.

"Our servers are located in [occupied] Jerusalem, meaning that [our] subscribers have to make a long distance call in order to get Internet access, which is costly," said Mr. Alaeddin.

## King receives congratulatory messages from Arab, foreign leaders on birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received congratulatory cables on his 62nd birthday from Arab and foreign heads of states.

The King received cables from King Hassan II of Morocco, Qatari leader Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, Romanian President Emil Constantinescu, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan, Bahraini leader Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman, Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat, Pakistani President Farouq Ahmad Khan, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud, and Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Jassem Ben Hamad.

In their messages, the Arab and foreign leaders wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and praised his supportive stands on Arab causes and his endeavours to establish peace and security in the region and the world.

In London, Queen Elizabeth delegated the Buckingham Palace chief of protocol to visit the Jordanian embassy and convey her congratulations and best wishes to King Hussein.

Also Friday, King Hussein sent a reply to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali thanking him for his congratulatory message and wishing him and his ministers continued good health and happiness.

To mark the King's birthday, the Nablus Charitable Society in Zarqa organised a free medical day at Shabih Palace Hospital, during which 31 specialised doctors and general practitioners provided free medical check-ups to a number of patients, including children, disabled persons, orphans, and the elderly.

Another medical day was organised in Sana'a, Yemen, where 24 doctors provided free medical services to patients through 17 specialised clinics. Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen Fu'ad Bataineb and the embassy staff attended the inauguration of the free medical day activities, organised to celebrate King Hussein's birthday.

## Delegation to MENA summit leaves today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's delegation to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit in Qatar is due to leave for Doha today carrying a number of projects to be submitted to the participating governments and business communities, according to Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani.

Dr. Anani, who is leading the delegation, told the Arabic daily Al-Dustour Friday that he will submit a number of Jordanian projects, as well as joint ventures with Israel and Arab countries, covering water, energy, agriculture, and the telecommunications and transport sectors and will seek investors to provide financing.

"Our mission is purely economic. We will try to market these projects, present Jordan's economic situation to the world, and obtain the assistance of major world firms," he said.

Referring to the economic restructuring programme that Jordan has been pursuing, Dr. Anani said "we have made painful decisions in order to reform our national economy, but these will soon bear fruit."

"Jordan is participating in the MENA meeting due to the Arab League decision that left the question of participation open to individual Arab countries," he stated.

The delegation consists of the ministers of planning, water and irrigation, and industry, trade and supply, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, and other concerned officials.

## Brotherhood denies reports of senior members' resignations

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Muslim Brotherhood spokesperson Friday denied that several senior members had submitted resignations in protest against the movement's boycott of the Nov. 4 elections.

Abdul Majeed Thneibat, the head of the movement, said no resignations were submitted and described news reports on this matter as "baseless."

Mr. Thneibat told the Jordan Times that "differences and divergent views regarding some issues exist in the movement, but no resignations were submitted."

"Differences between members on some issues is a healthy phenomenon and in the end, all members will abide by the final decision," Mr. Thneibat said.

He added that among the unsettled issues in the group are how to deal with members who were expelled because they ran as candidates in the elections and whether to join the Upper House of Parliament.

Last week, the Arabic daily Al-Rai reported that several members of the Muslim Brotherhood Executive Council submitted their resignations in protest against the decision to boycott the elections.

The daily said those who submitted their resignations included Mr. Thneibat, Adnan Jaljoui, and Abdul Raheem Akour. All are members of the group's executive council.

Mr. Thneibat said Abdullah Akaleh and Ahmad Azaydeh, who were expelled from the group because they ran in the elections, no longer represent the movement and ruled out their return.

The two won seats in this month's elections.

Mr. Thneibat, a former lawyer, said all Brotherhood members who participated or voted in the elections will be dismissed from the group.

Enad Abu Diyeh, a member in the seven-member executive council, said the news about the "alleged resignations" is part of the government's campaign against the group for its boycott of the elections.

"We believe that some people in government circles and others who cooperate with them are behind leaking such news to the press to punish us for our decision to boycott elections," Mr. Abu Diyeh added.

He said the decision by the Press and Publication Department (PPD) to suspend Al-Sabeel weekly newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Brotherhood, was part of this campaign against the group.

Mr. Abu Diyeh was referring to the PPD's letter to Al-Sabeel last Wednesday to "adjust its status" to meet the requirements of the new amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law. Failure means the suspension of the weekly newspaper.

He added that the general feeling in the Brotherhood is to boycott any participation in the Upper House.

"The debate on this issue is almost over, and until now, all indications are that we will not take part in the forthcoming Upper House," said Mr. Abu Diyeh, the architect of the group's boycott decision.

The executive council includes Mr. Thneibat, Mr. Abu Diyeh, Jamil Abu Bakir, Salim Falahat, Adnan Jaljoui, Abdul Raheem Akour, and Dawood Qojak.

The 40 members of the Upper House are appointed by His Majesty King Hussein and are usually known as the "King's Council." The Brotherhood had one representative in the former Upper House, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, deputy secretary general of the Islamic Action Front.

an police officer wearing a gas mask where Israeli soldiers fired tear gas. Dozens of demonstrators clashed with Israeli soldiers and police.

## Trains to Doha

Qatar's new railway line, which will connect Doha to the Persian Gulf, is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The line will be 100 km long and will have 10 stations. It will be the first railway line in Qatar and will be a major step towards the development of the country's infrastructure.

## Lebanese premiere

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is expected to visit Jordan in the near future. The visit is part of a series of diplomatic engagements aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries.

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### WHAT'S GOING ON

**FILM**

\* Comedy: "Shulz und Shulz" (pt. II) at the Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 4:30 p.m.

**FIFTH JORDANIAN THEATRE FESTIVAL**

\* Play entitled "The Nation's Moon" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS**

\* Exhibition of wall hangings and weavings by Bashar Kathem and others at Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 699141/2) until Dec. 4.

\* Paintings by Bahija Al Hakim at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until Nov. 22.

\* Paintings by Jordanian artist Nasr Abdul Aziz at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 31.

\* Works by Syrian artist Khaled Al-Maz at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Nov. 22.

\* Bani Hamida fall exhibition "Encounter" (displaying rugs designed by Japanese textile designer Tomoko Iyoda) at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 25 (Tel. 658696/7).

\* Exhibition of wicker accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan Rivers Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.

\* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

\* Paintings by Patrice Cadeunec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 20.

### JORDAN TIMES FAX

696-183

## Third nursing conference to open Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan Tuesday will open its third international nursing conference, entitled "Nursing Towards the Year 2000," under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Ragha Shukri, dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Jordan, Friday said the two-day meeting will be attended by 520 delegates from Arab, Islamic, and foreign nations.

The conference has the goal of helping Jordan pursue modern trends in the nursing profession and benefit from the latest scientific research, enhance relations among Jordanian and international nurses, and assess the profession in the next three years, according to Dr. Shukri.

She said the nursing profession in Jordan received a boost with the creation of the nursing faculty at the University of Jordan in 1973, adding that along with the various nursing institutes in the Kingdom, the faculty has been graduating a number of much-needed nurses for the local community.

The conference will cover issues pertaining to training and modern trends in teaching, management, community health, and other relevant issues, according to Dr. Shukri.

Delegates from the following countries are expected to participate in the conference: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Oman, Bahrain, Lebanon, the U.S., the Philippines, Italy, Pakistan, South Africa, Iran, Sweden, Canada, and Switzerland.

The University of Jordan is sponsoring the conference in conjunction with the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association.

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## Vietnamese president opens Francophone summit

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong officially opened the Francophone summit here Friday stressing the importance of economic cooperation among the 49 member countries and regions where French is spoken.

Speaking in French to delegates from 48 of the 49 Francophone members, the recently elected Vietnamese president spoke of cooperation among Francophone countries, especially on the economic front.

"The theme of this summit clearly demonstrates solidarity and cooperation among Francophone countries," he said.

"This summit opens at a time where there is strong economic competition throughout the world as we approach the 21st century."

"This is an opportunity for the Francophone countries to cooperate with countries of Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members. It must raise the role of the Francophone community worldwide," he said.

"The summit expresses the desire of countries to cooperate with Asian countries, a dynamic region which however is suffering from the difficulties caused by the monetary crisis."

Prior to delivering his opening speech, as the leaders drew up at the newly-renovated Soviet-style Friendship Palace, President Tran Duc Luong greeted each with a warm handshake.

Outside the building the flags of the 49 members fluttered in a warm breeze.

The summit is the largest international gathering hosted by Vietnam, and marks the crowning moment for Vietnam on the world's diplomatic stage.

"Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with more than 160 countries, and will do everything possible to consolidate peace, friendship, cooperation and development among the countries of Southeast Asia and of the Francophone community worldwide," Mr. Luong said.

He acknowledged "certain difficulties faced by some Francophone countries, with instability caused by different reasons" and called for the "peaceful resolution of the hot points of regional conflict."

There was tight security on the streets with policemen on many street corners directing the city's normally chaotic traffic.

Inside the packed building the Vietnamese leader opened the event with an address to more than 2,000 delegates.

He was to be followed by the Benin President Mathieu Kerekou whose country hosted the last summit in 1995 and French President Jacques Chirac. Other delegation leaders including Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien were also to address the audience.

According to Canadian sources, Mr. Chrétien is expected to push Vietnam, Egypt and other Francophone countries to join in the international ban on the production and use of anti-personnel landmines.

Speaking in French, Vietnamese children welcomed the participants to their country and wished the summit success. The boys, dressed in shirts and bow-ties, and the girls in silk traditional Vietnamese trousers and tunics, then sang a song in French hailing friendship.

After the morning opening ceremony, the delegates were to hold a three-hour closed door session. One of the main goals of the three-day summit will be to choose the first Francophone general secretary, widely tipped to be former U.N. chief Boutros Ghali.

The gathering of 49 Francophone was set up 11

years at the initiative of former French president François Mitterrand.

The two major no-shows were the Cameroon President Paul Biya and the leader of the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, Laurent Desire Kabila, although both had sent representatives.

Vietnamese authorities said Friday that the only member who had not officially confirmed attendance was the small Caribbean island of Saint Lucia.

The 48 delegation leaders were seated on a flower-bedecked stage in front of the hall underneath the official logo of the summit, a circle of colour symbolising the five continents represented in the gathering.

Delegates dressed in colourful African robes mingled with those in suits and ties.

France has put up about \$12 million to ensure the summit is a success and Vietnam has spent millions giving the city a facelift, building a new conference centre and renovating the colonial-style Opera House which will be opened Saturday night.

Mr. Chirac was also to hold a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit, including with Cambodian co-presidents Hun Sen and Ung Huot.



French President Jacques Chirac (right) gestures during a bilateral meeting with Lebanese Premier Rafik Al Hariri at the Francophone Summit in Hanoi (Reuters photo)

## Pakistan minister lashes out at 'terrorist mafia'

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Pakistan's commerce and investment minister lashed out Friday at what he called a global "terrorist mafia" after four U.S. oilmen were murdered in Karachi, alarming the country's foreign business community.

"It is a sad incident. I was in Pakistan the day before yesterday when this incident took place. We are really concerned as a government," Mohammad Ishaq Dar told a forum with foreign correspondents in Singapore.

The minister, who was on an investment promotion mission here, said that "it's a terrorist mafia the world over which is playing havoc for peaceful citizens."

Four Houston-based executives of U.S. oil company Union Texas were gunned down in Karachi along with their Pakistani driver Wednesday while going to their office in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

The shooting came just after a U.S. court found a

Pakistani, Aimal Kansil, guilty of the 1993 killing of two CIA employees.

Pakistani press reports said the ambush was claimed by a previously unheard-of group — The Aimal Secret Action Committee. "There was a sort of indication to the Americans that they should not move without security because of Kansil's conviction," the Pakistani minister said.

"But unfortunately these deceased people, they were very bold, they didn't bother about asking for security and they went along on their own," he said.

He welcomed Washington's decision to go ahead with a visit this weekend by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as well as President Bill Clinton's visit, planned for early 1998.

"The most heartening thing was that the company whose employees were assassinated has also announced that they will neither go back nor recall any of the 21 employees

which work in Pakistan on the project," he said.

The minister said there was much criticism of a strong anti-terrorist law introduced in August "but the government is committed to have law and order maintenance at any cost."

Two Karachi-based business organisations representing overseas companies have demanded adequate protection following the murders.

The call was made by the American Business Council (ABC) and the Overseas Investors Chamber, which both include scores of Western companies and business houses from the Middle East and Japan.

Pakistan said Thursday that the slaying was aimed at sabotaging the Albright visit. Detectives from elite American agencies have joined the investigation and the U.S. government issued a new travel warning to Americans living in and intending to travel to Pakistan.

## Austria's Klestil to seek 2nd term as president

VIENNA (R) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil announced Friday that he would seek a second six-year term as head of state in the presidential election set for next April.

The 65-year-old conservative said he hoped to win broad cross-party support for a new mandate in the largely ceremonial post.

Austria would face new challenges in the next six years, including its first presidency of the European Union (EU) in the second half of 1998 and the planned enlargement of the EU to include neighbouring countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

"I bring not only the necessary health and determination but also a high degree of professional experience and independence," Mr. Klestil said in a statement.

Two other candidates have already declared themselves — Richard Lugner, a flamboyant building tycoon with no political experience, and Heide Schmidt, leader of the Liberal Democratic Forum.

Ms. Schmidt has already caused controversy by declaring that, if elected, she would never appoint far-right Freedom Party leader Jörg Haider head of government even if his party became the largest in parliament.

Austria is now governed by a grand coalition between the dominant Social Democrats of chancellor Viktor Klima and the conservative People's Party. The next general election is due in 1999.

## Nawaz Sharif decides to appear in court in contempt case

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has decided to appear personally in the Supreme Court in a contempt case stemming from his recent tussle with the judiciary, a minister announced Friday.

Mr. Sharif will attend the court Monday to present his viewpoint, Minister for Information Mushahid Hussain told reporters.

He will be the first head of government in Pakistan to make a personal appearance in a court during the country's 50-year history.

The prime minister's decision shows his "high esteem" for the judiciary and commitment to Islamic traditions and rule of law as leader of a "democratic force," Mr. Hussain said.

Mr. Sharif and 12 others have been summoned by

the Supreme Court to explain why contempt proceedings should not be brought against them.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah issued the order Wednesday on a petition filed by Chaudhry Muhammad Akram, a leader of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Mr. Akram has accused Mr. Sharif and several of his parliamentary colleagues of ridiculing the judiciary during the row with it over appointments of judges to the Supreme Court.

Pakistan's constitution empowers the Supreme Court to punish any person who scandalises it or does anything which tends to bring the court or a judge into hatred, ridicule or contempt.

A conviction can lead to disqualification from holding a public office.

The authorities have submitted to the court video recordings of a press conference of the prime minister, speeches and interviews of MPs and details of some cartoons shown on television in connection with the dispute.

The row between the judiciary and the government erupted over Mr. Sharif's refusal to implement the chief justice's recommendations for elevating five high court judges to the Supreme Court.

The crisis was defused on Oct. 31 when Mr. Sharif bowed to the demand and notified the appointments, after which the chief justice expressed his satisfaction over the outcome.

## Andreotti had anti-mafia general assassinated, court told

ROME (AFP) — Former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti had anti-mafia general Adalberto Dalla Chiesa murdered in 1982, a former secret agent said at Mr. Andreotti's trial in Palermo for alleged mafia links Thursday.

Gaetano Sava, a former member of Italian military intelligence, said Dalla Chiesa had been killed by the mafia in Palermo because he was in possession of the political testament of another former prime minister, Aldo Moro. Moro wrote the testament, which was highly critical of Mr. Andreotti, during the 55 days he was held by the extreme left Red Brigades in 1978 before being murdered after Mr. Andreotti's government refused to negotiate for his release.

Only two parts of the testament have come to light, and the complete version, which is thought to be politically explosive, is still missing.

Mr. Sava said he had been told by the head of military intelligence, General Giuseppe Santovito, that Dalla Chiesa, who had just been named local governor in Palermo, would be killed because he annoyed Mr. Andreotti.

The former secret agent was obliged to strip to the waist during the court room to reveal a tattoo in his armpit, as evidence that he belonged to a masonic organisation.

## U.S., China top list of world's biggest polluters — IEA

TOKYO (R) — The United States, China, Russia and Japan produce almost half of overall global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, according to a survey by the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA).

The United States, which tops the rankings with 23.7 per cent of total CO2 emissions in 1995, produces about 20 tonnes of CO2 per person annually, it showed.

The statistics cover

emissions from fuel combustion only.

China, whose 1.2 billion population is roughly five times that of the United States, produced about 13.6 per cent of global CO2 emissions, about 2.51 tonnes annually on a per capita basis.

Russia produced about 7.0 per cent of emissions in 1995, while Japan produced 5.2 per cent and Germany 4.0 per cent.

While many major oil producing countries ranked low in terms of

overall emissions, their relatively small populations made them world leaders in per capita emissions.

The United Arab Emirates, for example, emitted about 30 tonnes per person in 1995.

Some 170 countries will gather in Kyoto, western Japan, next month in an effort to reach agreement on legally binding cuts in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions into the next century.

## Spice Girls booted off stage in Spain

MADRID (R) — The British pop group The Spice Girls was booted off the stage after performing at the annual Premios Ondas awards ceremony in Barcelona.

The popular all-girl quintet, Britain's biggest music phenomenon since the Beatles, angered the crowd attending the Thursday night gala when they at first refused to appear.

A presenter told the audience the spice girls "won't come on stage until the photographers

leave the room." It was, he said, a stipulation of their contract.

That brought loud jeers and hisses from a large contingent of photographers and reporters as well as members of the crowd, made up of representatives of Spanish television, radio, film and music.

After a few minutes of backstage negotiations, the group stepped out from behind the curtains to perform and accept their award.

The Spice Girls were

booted when they took the stage and faced another round of jeering and whistling as they left. The Premios Ondas are among Spain's most prestigious entertainment awards.

The Spice Girls, who have topped the music charts worldwide, have had a rocky ride over recent weeks.

They shocked the pop industry this week by sacking the manager who took them from obscurity to stardom. Sales of their second

album "Spiceworld" have got off to a slowish start and relations with the media have been strained.

Last month, Swedish newspapers threatened to boycott a news conference with them in Stockholm, accusing the group of trying to control their work. They said the band had demanded access to negatives of photographs taken of them as well as the right to use the pictures.

## Australia under fire over bail laws

SYDNEY (AFP) — The New South Wales government was under pressure Friday to change bail laws after a man held for questioning about the murders of two schoolgirls was allowed bail for sex offences.

The bodies of Lauren Barry, 14, and Nichole Collins, 16, who disappeared while hitch-hiking near their homes in Bega,

New South Wales, were found in bushland across the state border in Victoria late Wednesday.

The girls, whom police said had been stabbed to death, were last seen on Oct. 5, when they started to walk to a party at a friend's house.

One of two men being questioned in connection with the murders had earlier this year been released

on bail on sexual assault charges because the director of public prosecutions did not oppose it, the state opposition said.

"We are now aware that one of the people that's helping police is out on bail on very serious charges and that person's out on bail because the DPP didn't oppose it," opposition legal affairs spokesman John

Hannaford said.

Mr. Hannaford said legal constraints limited what he could say about the bail circumstances, but added the government had reason to be sensitive about the matter.

"That will no doubt be commented on down the track, when some charges are dealt with, but we know why the government is sensitive," he said.







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## Never too late for dialogue

THE U.N. Security Council is set to convene again and most probably adopt additional measures against Iraq in the wake of Baghdad's decision to expel U.S. inspectors. Iraq reacted quickly to Thursday's council Resolution 1137, which imposes additional sanctions against the country for refusing to back down on its rejection of U.S. participation in the council's inspection missions. It ordered the American inspectors out of the country. Iraq has pleaded in vain for recognition of its complaints and called on the council to hear its case and to set a timetable for ending the crippling sanctions. Iraq blames Washington for the open-ended sanctions. Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton has vowed not to allow what he views as Iraq's "defiance" to go unanswered and called for the Security Council to hold a meeting for this purpose. It is hard to imagine what other punitive measures the council can enact against the Arab country. Both Iraq and the U.S. are now finding themselves propelled by their own actions and reactions. With the U.S. nationals ordered out of Iraq and the Security Council pulling out all the inspectors in a show of solidarity, the stage is set for similar developments that may very well culminate in a renewed armed conflict, which might have unforeseen results regionally and internationally.

With no international consensus on how to deal with Iraq, support for more military action against Baghdad appears to be steadily eroding. True, the Security Council acted in unison to reject Iraq's dismissal of U.S. nationals on its soil. But will the council members, especially France, Russia and China, go as far as supporting military action?

Many voices in this region and in the world at large, including His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, have been calling for dialogue, not a confrontation, to defuse the stand-off. While calling on Iraq to cooperate fully with the council, the King has called for a political settlement of the conflict. Prince Hassan has also spoken out against additional sanctions on Iraq. During his talks with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy Wednesday, the Regent rejected both the sanctions and military action because of their dire effects on the Iraqi people. The Arab League also spoke against more sanctions or military strikes. It is clear that the Arab World in general is not supportive of a fresh round of punitive measures. The international community also does not appear to be united in support of new actions against Iraq.

In its list of demands put before the U.N., Baghdad did not categorically reject the involvement of U.S. nationals in the inspection unit but called instead for an end of what it calls American hegemony over the whole mission. There is then plenty of room for reconciling the two positions provided there is enough goodwill and statesmanship.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Ibrahim Ahsai said that following seven years of deprivation and sanctions during which hundreds of thousands of its people died, Iraq has the right to raise its voice and ask why and until when should the Iraqi people endure the injustice. The Iraqi people have the right to demand an end to the persecution and slow death, and demand that a timetable be worked out accordingly, said the writer. At the same time the Iraqi leadership has the right to demand that the U.N. inspection teams end their mission after having destroyed all of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and after the Iraqi nation complied with all the U.N. resolutions, the writer said. The Iraqis have the right to make such demands, and the world should listen, Ahsai said. He said that if the U.N. Security Council decides to allow major powers to launch an attack on Iraq, the result will be grave, not only for the Iraqi people whose suffering will mount, but also for the U.N. as a world organisation which will lose its credibility for allowing major powers to carry out aggression on an impoverished and starving nation.

Al Dustour's Yasser Zatreh urged Jordan's wealthy to follow the example of the rich in other nations in coming to the help of the poor through donations and through initiating projects for the benefit of the needy. The writer said that while the rich get richer in Jordan the poor get poorer, and the middle class is being eliminated due to the unfair distribution of wealth and the indifference shown by the rich towards the poor. The writer said the majority of the rich lose no time in showing off their wealth, spending lavishly, and driving luxury cars. But they lose no money in contributing to charitable organisations which try to help the poor and the destitute. Calling for a humanitarian act on the part of Jordan's wealthy community of whom, according to a recent statistical report 6,000 are millionaires, the writer said these privileged people ought to follow the example of the rich in other nations where their contributions have helped to erase poverty rather than leave the job for the state which can barely find funds for the country's development schemes.

## Jordanian Perspective

## Ending the sanctions takes moral courage

By Dr. Musa Keilani

IT HAS always been crystal clear to us in Jordan that the international sanctions slapped on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 are not going to end, nor are they meant to. They make up a very convenient weapon with which the U.S. seeks, not only to eliminate the military potential of an Arab country that threatens its protégé in the region, Israel, but also serve as a scarecrow to help advance the interests of the American defence establishment. Regrettably for all of us in the Arab World, the Iraqi regime offered itself up on a silver platter to the U.S. when it sent its tanks rolling across the border to Kuwait in one of the worst episodes in Arab history. And, since then, we have been witness to stages of the same game being played out but with the U.S. changing the rules and distancing the goalpost every time Iraq crossed the half-field mark, making it impossible for Baghdad to even see where it was going.

The latest stand-off in the crisis between Baghdad and, ostensibly, the United Nations Security Council, is no different either. It is definitely another extension of the same game in which none but the U.S. maintains the monopoly of victory by virtue of its being the sole superpower today.

The Iraqi declarations and actions that we hear and see represent a determination not to allow the game to continue, at least not under the rules set by the U.S., which indeed captained Baghdad's rival team but also claims to be a neutral referee who hides behind the name of the U.N. It is highly possible that the Iraqi frustration over the never-ending saga of U.N. inspections of its arsenal and its ability to produce weapons has crossed the point of no-return, and Baghdad might have decided to take a make-or-break stand to force the hand of the international community.

The statements made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, the diplomatic spokesman of President Saddam Hussein, have made so much clear. The undertone of what the U.S. describes as Iraqi defiance of the will of the international community is definitely an appeal to the world conscience to step in and call off the game.

While we can understand (but not appreciate) the motivations of the U.S., whether in terms of keeping Iraq as a caged lion to scare the Gulf states into buying tens of billions of dollars worth of obsolete weapons disguised as advanced defence equipment or as an ace to deal in the event of a confrontation with Iran, we are puzzled, indeed, bewildered by the behaviour of other players in the international scene, particularly the U.N. Security Council. They cannot be oblivious to the reality that continued demonisation of Iraq serves no purpose other than consolidating Washington's political and economic strategies in the region and reaffirming the self-assumed role of the U.S. as the almighty policeman, prosecutor, jury, judge and executioner of the world.

Many voices were heard during the run-up to the Gulf war, here in the Arab World and elsewhere in the developing world, warning the so-called European allies of the U.S. against jumping onto the Washington-led military bandwagon unleashing its might on Iraq. No one listened. Sure enough, they find themselves largely under the mercy of the U.S. or U.S. proxies today when it comes to the international oil market not to mention being edged out of multi-billion dollar arms deals with the Gulf states.

Quite obviously, they have yet to learn their lesson; in all probability, by the time they do realise their folly and move

to correct it, it might be too late for tens of thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians.

The reports that we have been hearing about Iraq having developed a "suitcase bomb" and deadly biological weapons, with crop-dusters thrown into the bargain as delivery means for such arms, are difficult to believe; that is to say the least. Any casual observer with an acceptable level of intelligence can only realise that the Iraqis are much too preoccupied with internal problems to bother with developing new weapons, which they know very well cannot escape Uncle Sam's alert and watchful eyes which take note of the movement of a tree branch in Iraq today. But let us not forget that they could very well be the part of the build-up to a scenario where the U.S. lobbs a few more cruise or Tomahawk missiles or the latest from its arsenal — at Iraq. After all, Iraq has not been punched in the last couple of years, and perhaps it is time Washington reminded the world who's boss.

But that is not going to solve the problem either. What the international community needs today is enough moral courage to stand up and accept the Iraqi challenge to open a frank and no-nonsense dialogue as to what is expected of Baghdad in order to arrive at an end to the crippling sanctions. Vague statements about U.N. Security Council resolutions are simply not enough. Clear lines should be drawn and stringent, permanent rules should be set so that Iraq knows where it is headed and when and where the light at the end of the tunnel is. That is where the Europeans come into play. But then again, can we, in all sincerity, expect the Europeans to stand up and say enough is enough?

## A matter of extradition

From Donald Neff  
in Washington

THE UNTHINKABLE is happening in Congress. Some representatives are actually talking out loud about cutting aid to Israel. The reason is not that Israel ignores U.S. advice, violates its Oslo commitments, thumbs its nose at U.N. resolutions or continues a cruel military occupation. It was mainly because of Israel's adamant refusal to extradite a Jewish American teenager who fled there after becoming wanted over a grisly murder in a Washington suburb. Israel's lack of cooperation caused a firestorm and ended up showing that pressure from Washington does work when the U.S. is serious.

Congress, the State Department and the Department of Justice all quickly became involved, with a powerful Congressman threatening to reduce Israel's \$3bn in official aid and demanding that the secretary of state personally intervene. That sent a signal that caught Israel's attention.

The Israelis quickly tried to pacify Republican Representative Bob Livingston from Louisiana, a former federal prosecutor. He declared: "We can't have alleged awful murderers all of a sudden committing outrageous acts and fleeing to any country, let alone Israel," adding ominously: "We have to consider the foreign aid bill in the next few days, and it's my expectation and hope that this will no longer be a problem because I expect to see Mr. Sheinbein (the suspect) back here in the United States as soon as possible

to face the charges against him."

Within hours of his threat on Oct. 1, the Israeli justice minister telephoned an aide to Livingston, and the Israeli ambassador to the United States rushed to Capitol Hill to calm him down. At the same time, Israel announced that its opposition to extradition was not as firm as stated at first and that it was studying the issue. On Oct. 8, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a letter to Secretary of State Albright promising cooperation.

But still the Israelis delayed, arguing that because the suspect's father, Sol Sheinbein, was born in Israel, he is an Israeli citizen and therefore so is his son, Samuel. Israeli citizens cannot be extradited for crimes committed outside Israel under a law passed in the 1970s. The U.S. sent 390 documents related to Sol Sheinbein showing he had been a U.S. resident since 1950 and had never attempted to return to Israel. State Department spokesman James Rubin said on Oct. 8: "We want to see Mr. [Samuel] Sheinbein face justice in the United States, and we have made that very clear to the Israeli government." On Oct. 17 an Israeli court ruled that the suspect would be held for at least 10 more days to give officials more time to study the citizenship issue.

Finally, on Oct. 19, Israel's attorney-general intervened and declared in an official statement: "After a careful examination of the matter of citizenship, the position of the ministry of justice is that Sheinbein is not an Israeli citizen." Israel had taken its time, but under the

combined U.S. pressure it gave in, a lesson that is not likely to be lost on the Palestinians.

Sheinbein is 17 and has never lived in Israel and speaks no Hebrew. He and a second youth, Aaron B. Needle, 17, have been charged with murdering Alfredo Enrique Tello Jr., 19, for reasons unknown. Tello's body was found without arms or legs and severely burned on Sept. 18 in Montgomery County, Maryland. Sheinbein fled to Israel shortly afterwards. Police said that near the body they found an electric saw used to dismember the body and indications that Sheinbein had bought the saw. A trail of blood drops was discovered along a wooded path that leads from Sheinbein's home to the empty house where the body was found.

## Dividing the U.S. aid kitty

Congressional talk of withholding aid to Israel seems to be spreading, however belatedly. It has also cropped up over another issue. Republican Representative Sonny Callahan of Alabama, who is chairman of the House appropriations sub-committee and not at all happy about the Sheinbein extradition, said on Oct. 15 that his panel was withholding consideration of \$75m in economic assistance to Israel "until such time as we can resolve how Middle East funding is going to be divided." His committee oversees foreign aid.

The delay is mainly over the source of \$200m in aid promised to Jordan. While both Israel and Egypt have agreed that part of the sum could be deducted from their annual aid

allotment, no figures have been specified and there is an argument going on about how much the two countries and the U.S. should contribute. Callahan said he is determined that the overall aid package to the Middle East will not be increased.

Since 1985, Israel has been receiving annual aid to \$3bn and Egypt \$2.2bn, all in the form of non-repayable grants. For Israel, there is also an additional array of special funds that is so large that it practically amounts to an alternative aid programme.

In 1996, these funds for Israel amounted to \$2,505,300,000 in extra commitments, including \$2bn in loan guarantees. By category, the extra aid included such disparate sources as \$93.5m from the State Department, including \$80m for refugee resettlement and \$10m for Israel's foreign aid programme; \$242.3m from the Pentagon, including \$56.3m for "counter-terrorism training and equipment"; \$17m from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service for night vision equipment; and \$2.5m from the Department of Commerce for science and technology cooperation.

Total U.S. aid to Israel from 1948 through fiscal 1996, including \$8bn in loan guarantees, was \$77,726bn — far exceeding the \$13bn committed to resurrecting Western Europe under the Marshall Plan at the end of World War II.

Middle East International

## U.N.-Iraq stand-off takes news spotlight

REVIEWED BY  
ELIA NASRALLAH

TAKING THE lead in headlines in the Arabic dailies last week were the situation between Iraq and the U.N., the peace process and domestic issues.

Fahed Faneh, a writer for Al Rai, said that in light of the U.S. threats to Iraq, the Arab Nation ought to raise its voice loud and clear against any form of aggression on the Iraqi people. The Arabs should transcend their differences and unite their ranks in the face of the U.S. onslaught which is in reality directed against the entire Arab Nation, said the writer. The Arabs should take a more realistic step and counter the American threats by opening their borders wide with Iraq and end the sanctions on the Iraqi people, Faneh said. He said the sanctions imposed on Iraq in 1990 should end since Iraq has fully complied with all the U.N. resolutions.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab said Arab countries are expected to issue statements of condemnation against the U.S. threats directed at Iraq but no practical steps are expected to help end the sanctions imposed on its people. As long as the Arabs are taking no practical steps to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi nation, as long as some of the Arabs are in reality conspiring against Iraq and as long as the Arabs are not united in their stand, there will be no relief to the Iraqi people, Qallab said. "Though we support the Iraqi people against this American aggression, we also hope that the Iraqi leadership will change its stance with regard to the U.N. inspections in order to avert further attacks, more suffering and more deprivation," said the writer. A compromise in this latest crisis is needed because neither the U.N. nor the Iraqi leadership would like to see the situation deteriorate further.

Tareq Masarweh of Al Rai said the U.S. is unlikely to launch a new war on Iraq because it lacks the Arab money that was available to it in 1990. The U.S. cannot change anything on the political ground through a military strike on Iraq despite the fact that its rockets can destroy many of Iraq's installations, said the writer. Furthermore, it has to be stressed that

the Iraqis who have endured the sanctions for the past seven years are not expected to be affected by new sanctions imposed on them as they are better off without the U.N. inspection teams whose task was only aimed at humiliating the Arab people, Masarweh said.

Mahmoud Rimawi, also of Al Rai, addressed the peace process in light of the latest round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations held in the U.S. Netanyahu's total disregard of the peace process and his government's adamant stand against the implementation of the Oslo accords prompted Palestine leader Yasser Arafat to announce even before the latest negotiations that he expects nothing from the talks which he described as a waste of time and an effort, Rimawi said. What Netanyahu is interested in, said the writer, is to expand Israel's settlement programmes in the Arab lands and to satisfy the small right-wing parties in his government that he had promised he would build more settlements and scrap the Oslo agreements. In light of these circumstances, said the writer, the Palestinians should stop the negotiations with Israel, unify their ranks in confronting the Israelis by all political and other means.

At Al Arab Al Yawm Marwan Hazin

THE WEEK  
IN PRINT

said the peace process is not deadlocked but dead, assassinated by Israel's present government. By imposing collective punishment on the Palestinians, by retaining thousands of Palestinian prisoners in its jails, by building more settlements on Arab lands and by refusing to redeploy forces in the West Bank, Israel is telling the whole world that it is not

interested in making peace with the Arabs or giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights. There is nothing left for the Arabs to discuss with the Israelis as long as they are determined to refuse to give the Arabs any rights and there is no need for the Palestinian leadership to pursue further talks at any level with an Israeli government intent on perpetuating its expansion and occupation of Arab lands, he said.

Commenting on the outcome of the parliamentary elections, Oreih Rintawi of Al Dustour criticised the present system which allows a meagre margin of Jordanians of Palestinian origin to be elected in Parliament. Whereas 10 to 15 per cent of the 12th Parliament represented this large sector of the Jordanian people, those elected to the 13th Parliament are much fewer, said the writer. He said such a situation can only cause frustration among the public. The writer said there is no logic in the present "unrealistic and unbalanced system which ignores this major part of the Jordanian public." He said perhaps the government justifies this situation by saying that the Palestine question has not yet been settled and because the government wants to give attention to less developed regions of the Kingdom.

Mohammad Daoud a writer for Al Al Dustour praised the efforts of the National Population Commission for its endeavours to control the growth of population especially in the rural regions. As the gap between population growth and economic growth is widening there is real need for practical steps to deal with the problem of high birth rates especially among poor families, said the writer. It is gratifying to see more and more Jordanian families beginning to realise the need for family planning and birth spacing not only to control rampant population growth but also to safeguard the mothers' health, he said. The writer said the National Population Commission and the health officials at the mother and child care centres are to be commended for their great task of helping Jordanians to adopt family planning programmes.

## LETTERS

## Beware the backlash

To the Editor:

THE LATEST incident in the battle between Washington and Baghdad should be viewed from a historical perspective. When U.S. planes bombed the Iraqi cities, they took care to completely destroy the civilian infrastructure in contravention of the rules of war. This was admitted by Washington in language that would have made George Orwell blush.

American planes, when they ran out of targets, went back to bomb electrical stations, some being hit 13 times. The planes also hit veterinary plants, food reserves, farms, animals, and anything that might help the Iraqi people survive. Meanwhile, the American people were fed the results as squeaky-clean smart bomb hits, causing "collateral damage," but not hurting real people. It was not until the war was over that they learned of some of the damage. By then, the Iraqi people had been demonised to such an extent that to the Americans, they no longer qualified as human beings.

I was doing research in the West Bank and Gaza at the time, and on my rare trips into West Jerusalem, was outraged to see all of the T-shirts showing then Israeli Premier Shamir battering Saddam. It looked like Israel had single-handedly beaten Iraq. Later, when the L.A. Times reported a George Bush speech saying to the American Jewish Congress that he had done it for them, I was not surprised.

That the Americans are continuing the war by other means also does not surprise me. They have a long history of doing this, until completely eliminating the targeted peoples. This was a very successful tactic against the American Indian, and millions died because of it. Take out the military powers first, then you can do what you will with the rest.

Iraq was defeated, and should now be rehabilitated. To continue to starve out its people will produce a backlash of hate for the whole West. One result that should not be tolerated is the disunity of the Muslim and Arab peoples. There is an old saying: You either hang together, or hang separately. Meaning those who do not stay together are defeated separately. History is full of those who have disregarded this warning, the bones of their civilisations resting forever.

Sheila B. Cassidy  
Riverside Middle East Research Project  
Riverside, California  
USA



# Global warming: The planet's hottest problem

By Paul Brown

IN ANCIENT times there was just one politician who fiddled while Rome burned. Today, as the whole Earth begins to heat up and the climate changes before our eyes, world leaders are reaching for their violins in droves. Politicians admit that they can see the flames — or, to put it their way, they accept that the scientists' warnings about global warming are proving correct. Yet their reactions continue to be far from adequate.

In the first half of October, President Bill Clinton called a White House conference to prepare the United States public to hit the bullet on carbon dioxide reductions. The World Bank holds a meeting to try to move governments on the issue; and the 160 nations which signed the Climate Change Convention at the Earth Summit in 1992 entered the final round of negotiations in Bonn to seek action on climate change beyond the year 2000. But even if the most far-reaching suggestions on the table in Bonn were accepted the politicians' action is so far behind the scientists' demands that a series of climatic disasters seems almost inevitable.

The scientists are more united in their views than ever before. Action is needed quickly, they say: according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a 60 per cent reduction on current carbon dioxide emissions is urgently required to save the world from dangerous climate change.

Note the word "dangerous." They point to evidence (which President Clinton has stated several times, that he accepts) that the world is already heating up, currently by 0.1C

a decade; and if the process speeds up, then natural systems will not be able to adapt.

In Canada, fir trees are already measurably dying back: an indication that the vast forests of the U.S., Canada and Russia will die in the heat before the next generations of saplings can establish themselves on the cooler northern edge of the forest. Another newly detected problem — predicted, but not expected so soon — is the slowing down of the mighty Gulf Stream which warms the west of the British Isles. This is caused by melting ice from Greenland, and the slow-down threatens Britain with more stormy and sometimes colder winter weather. Sir Robert May, the government's chief scientific adviser, recently described this prospect as awesome.

The United States is also being made aware of the urgency of the situation, not least because the most likely consequence of inaction is worldwide economic recession. In Washington at the World Bank conference there were dire warnings about the effect on the world economy of this year's El Nino weather pattern. This is the movement of extra warm water from west to east in the Pacific, enough to disrupt trade winds and weather patterns over more than half the world. This year's El Nino caused the drought which allowed the Indonesian fires to burn out of control.

El Nino has also caused droughts and storms in South America. The World Bank conference was told that it was going to cause economic disruption through the Asia Pacific region and South America for the next 12 to 18 months.

## The world in 2050

Forests (Canada, Russia, Amazon) are damaged by heat and drought. The weather (US and Russia) moves north. Storms threaten Florida and the southern US. Insurance companies face bankruptcy.

According to the UN's international panel of 2,500 scientists, these are some of the disasters facing Earth if current trends continue.

Other science published recently shows that much of the frozen soil that underpins Alaska is melting. The permafrost acts as a foundation for roads, railways, and oil pipelines. It also holds together mountains which would otherwise crack open and cause landslides. Temperatures in Alaska are rising three times faster than in the rest of the Arctic. Roads, building foundations and airport runways built on the

permafrost are crumbling. China is watching anxiously: It has 2,000 miles of railways built on the edge of the permafrost zone, all of which will need new foundations. The solution is clear: Carbon dioxide emissions need to be cut, with urgency and on a global level. Carbon dioxide, although making up only a tiny percentage of air, acts as a barrier to prevent heat escaping. As with the glass in a greenhouse, it

lets in the sunlight and prevents the heat getting out — hence the "greenhouse effect." There are other greenhouse gases, such as methane, but carbon dioxide is the single most difficult problem because it stays in the atmosphere for up to 100 years before being absorbed by plants or the oceans. All that time it adds to the heating up of the Earth. What makes it possible to set targets for cuts is

the fact that carbon dioxide production can be measured. We know how much coal is burned in power stations and how much petrol goes into cars, and each nation's extra carbon dioxide can be calculated. Hence it is easy to pinpoint blame for global warming and police its control. Targets, however, are what the world cannot currently agree on. The European Union, the most advanced of the big power

blocks on climate change, has offered a 15 per cent reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2010. In October, Japan offered 5 per cent, but after much agonising — because Japan hosts the meeting in Kyoto, from December 1 to 10, where 160 heads of state are due to sign the final deal on climate change for the first 20 years of the next century.

The Japanese government wants the talks to succeed, but is facing heavy pressure from its industry lobby not to concede too much. But the United States is key to the success or failure of these deliberations. At the Earth Summit review conference in New York in June, President Clinton promised both legally binding targets and timetables in Kyoto. So far he has been unable to deliver, because of the powerful industry lobby that fears action on global warming will put up taxes and cost them business. The lobby spent £10 million in six weeks on television advertisements which claimed that action on global warming would mean higher taxes and job losses.

China and the other G77 nations argue that the U.S., as the world's largest carbon dioxide emitter, is, with the rest of the industrialised world, the main cause of the problem. The U.S. has yet to offer anything beyond the turn of the century, and has not kept its previous promises to peg carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by the year 2000. It is already due to overshoot the 2000 target by 14 per cent.

Yet whatever compromise is reached, the problem will certainly not wait for politicians. Dr. Bob Watson, director of the World Bank's environ-

ment department and former environment adviser in President Clinton's administration, put it this way: "We are fast approaching the point where the Earth's physical and biological systems will not be able to meet our demands for environmental goods and services on which we depend. Nations are already facing threats to their most basic development goals."

This is the World Bank speaking, not Greenpeace. Another straw in the wind was the appearance in London of John Browne, chief executive of BP, on the same platform as Chris Rose, campaigns director of Greenpeace. Mr. Browne acknowledged that the greenhouse effect was real and made great play of the fact that BP was investing in solar power. The company sees a business opportunity: Two billion people currently without electricity live in sunny areas. On cutting the use of fossil fuels he was a little circumspect. There was plenty of time for that — meanwhile the world wanted to own cars, driven by oil, and they must be given that opportunity. Still, a deal is almost certain to be stitched up. World leaders will want to hail it as a historic step towards saving the world from climate change. But if the evidence piling up is correct, it certainly will not be enough.

The Guardian

Sources: 1) The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 1996; 2) Sir Robert May's scientific report on Climate Change to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, October 1997; 3) US Department of Energy, Oct. 1997.

## The Saturday Crossword

STICKS AND STONES

By Alan Olshwang

ACROSS

- 1 Indian numerals
- 2 Type of tree
- 3 "The" in "The"
- 4 Spanish-speaking nation
- 5 Date
- 6 "The" in "The"
- 7 "The" in "The"
- 8 "The" in "The"
- 9 "The" in "The"
- 10 "The" in "The"
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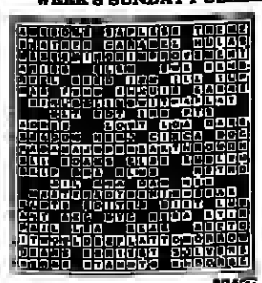
Diagrams 19x19

By Frances Burton

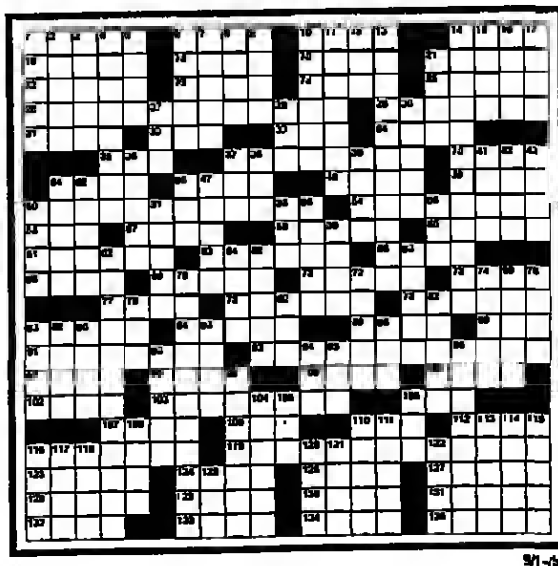
ACROSS

- 1 Rough office
- 2 Type of tree
- 3 "The" in "The"
- 4 Spanish-speaking nation
- 5 Date
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SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Edited by Herb Ettenson



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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Lightweight boxer switches his good pot poodle for one more belling him: a boxer.
2. Some of the programs created by Congress are found to be triumphs of mediocrity.
3. Good old pilot teaches his grandson to fly: a pilot's son.
4. If ghosts are sighted, flight leads to flight.

CRYPTOGRAMS

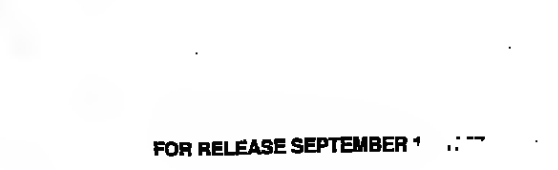
1. HAKKOW LQY EK AEWET LQY ZINERHET  
ZLSCT LG QY XPE ADEHDE WEXVET LEE  
RINXBY LPP GAI RXXE. — By Ed Holtzman

2. F FORTFLU AFN PICHSTYRCA FL ARLONGA  
LUNARREU XTREZ SO RL KATZBROXO  
UNPOZEULS FOURI. — By Joan Wilbur

3. KXVIZ TUI E VECHE TUE VEXPPS WOW  
ON LS NUI MOLEKVI TUXM UX VECRWZ  
EDV KXVIZV. — By Ed Holtzman

4. CHERC CHERLOK CEP STOP CTERI LORDE  
GOPEN INASSTV TA HEAVTLLO. — By Ed Holtzman

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## Down and out in Amsterdam, just for one day

By Christine Lucassen

Reuter

AMSTERDAM — They say that anyone can lose their home, but most people cannot imagine what it's like to live on the streets.

Dutch voluntary organisation Voila wants to put that right, offering curious people a glimpse into the lives of Amsterdam's homeless for 45 guilders (\$23) a turn.

The ground-breaking scheme, introduced in February, enables "ordinary" people to spend one day on the streets, with the money raised going towards homeless centres and running the programme.

"Social workers and volunteers need to know what it's like to be on the other side," says Roel Krikke, a psychotherapist who works as a volunteer at Voila.

Berlin has been quick to imitate Voila's idea, and New York is planning a similar initiative.

The day starts with a short introduction — information on how many people live on Amsterdam's streets, how they ended up there and how they get through each 24 hours.

Depending on the criteria used, there are between 3,000 and 7,000 people living rough in the Dutch capital, a city of 720,000.

The number changes with the seasons, with penniless tourists swelling the homeless population in the summer but hiking back home once the chill wind starts to blow in from the North Sea.

Around 1,720 beds, paid and free, are available for those Amsterdamers who have nowhere else to go.

Volunteers hand over personal belongings once the Voila guinea pigs, usually a group of two to six people, have digested the basic information, it is time to confront the reality of life at the margins of society.

They hand over their keys, money and all other personal belongings and set off to find a place to spend the night.

A genuine street person keeps a protective eye on the novices and offers a few hints. But basically the volunteers have to strike out on their own.

"Most people don't have the faintest idea what to do or where to go," says

Ferry Van Veen, who lost his home in January. Ferry enjoys his involvement in the Voila walks, which brings him into contact with new people.

He tells the newcomers a place nearby offers free cups of tea and sometimes advice.

In a basement room, people of all ages, most of them men and many neatly dressed, sip tea. Some read, others chat or play a game of draughts. Many just sit deep in thought.

"It's very, very difficult to find a place to sleep. But you don't need it — you don't get any sleep on the street."

place to sleep. But you don't need it — you don't get any sleep on the street," reasoned one young woman. One day spent with the homeless is not enough to gain a genuine insight, she argues.

"You won't understand what it's like until you wake up without shoes for the umpteenth time."

Obtaining a free bed in one of Amsterdam's social or religious institutions is too much of a hassle for her.

"You have to run from one side of the city to the other. I don't have time for that, I have to earn my keep," she said, before walking off to get clean clothes from the volunteers.

A man sitting nearby said he managed to scrape together enough cash to share a cheap hotel room with two other men.

"With my unemployment benefit and the money I earn selling the Z (street magazine), I can just afford it," he said.

A young Moroccan man revealed that he sleeps under the sails of small boats on Amsterdam's canals and harbour.

At the Salvation Army, where guide

Ferry collects his mail, the beds are taken long before noon. "You have to be here much earlier. Before nine o'clock," a woman helper said.

Men can check in until late evening at a hostel on the other side of town. Women can try their luck at the Sisters of Charity, she added.

A determined and well-organised person can get up to 18 free nights a month in Amsterdam, moving around between the various religious, municipal and other hostels.

"You can pay 20 guilders a night for a shelter or go to another city for the remainder of the month," says Ferry.

Homelessness is no joke, "tourists" find a day spent outside is tiring and long.

Ferry leads the Voila group from a free coffeehouse to a free teahouse, sticking to a meticulous schedule. In between, there is an opportunity to warm up watching videos in a big department store.

The Sisters Augustinessen hand out one free sandwich to each novice — not enough to ward off creeping cold and hunger. Some homeless people show the group kindness and tell jokes. A woman in a church shares her cigarettes.

Sellers of the street's Z-magazine display their backpacks loaded with newspapers while the religious talk about God.

Police officers stop for a friendly chat.

At 5 p.m., after seven hours of almost solid walking, the bedraggled volunteer group is glad to return to the Voila centre and reclaim belongings.

The homeless-for-a-day discuss their experiences. They have discovered most of those sleeping rough are not fools, drunks or thieves. They have just had some bad luck.

The Voila project has been well received. Some 200 volunteers have spent a day walking the streets of Amsterdam since February.

In the early days, most participants were journalists. Since then social workers, students and people with a personal interest have joined their numbers.

"There's a lot of interest in the survival weekends we intend to start soon. These will give people a better impression of what it's like," said Voila's Krikke.



## Fariz reveals latest statistics on inflation, investment, deficit and remittances

### Central Bank on the move to deepen financial reform

By Samir Ghawi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Just as local industry is under pressure to improve quality and production standards, so is the financial sector also forced to improve efficiency, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) told the Jordan Times Wednesday. He stressed that the increasing sophistication and globalisation of the financial sector are requiring higher competition and efficiency.

"The partnership with the European Union and the entry to the World Trade Organisation necessitate serious efforts to modernise and upgrade the banking and financial techniques and services," Ziad Fariz, the CBJ governor, emphasised.

Dr. Fariz said the CBJ is constantly urging the banks to upgrade their services and techniques in order to develop new financial instruments and enhance financial intermediation. "Continued modernisation and high competitiveness are a must for local banks in order to survive in a highly sophisticated financial world," the governor asserted.

"The CBJ is also attaching high importance to maintaining sound monetary policy and prudent banking practices," the governor said indicating that while the exposure to an advanced financial sector holds many promising opportunities for our domestic banks, they still would have to face serious challenges.

"Without raising competitiveness, we will be overwhelmed by an advanced international financial sector," he stressed.

In this regard, Dr. Fariz said the CBJ is spearheading a drive to deepen financial reform and upgrade the system to a higher level of efficiency and competitiveness.

He pointed out that the CBJ drive to deepen reform is a long and continuous process that requires commitment and perseverance over many years to materialise.

The development of a payment system is a major component of the financial reform package that the CBJ is currently working on in collaboration with the banking community.

He explained that by modernising the payment system, banks will reduce their costs and be able to dispense with a great volume of paperwork and concentrate more on their core activity and on securing better deals.

Dr. Fariz said such modernisation will pave the way for developing a capital market and, mainly, the money market. He added that it will also enable banks to enhance their asset-liability management.

"There is no question that develop-



Ziad Fariz

ing the capital market should promote Jordan as far as foreign investment is concerned, and should facilitate the implementation of indirect and efficient monetary policy," Dr. Fariz said, adding that a modern payment system will benefit and improve all activities of Jordan's economy.

The governor said the CBJ has already made progress by installing an automated cheques clearing system but, he added, the payment system project is more comprehensive than cheques clearing.

He elaborated that a modern payment system entails more than simply installing and operating a few machines and computers as it requires an organisational and legal framework and clearer settlement rules to ensure the smooth functioning of the system.

"Each country has its payment habits and practices and, accordingly, the scheme should be tailored to be compatible with our economic requirements," Dr. Fariz said.

He went on to say that the scheme is an entire process of change which

should keep Jordan's economy at pace with the globalisation of the world economies.

Asked about the latest economic and financial indicators, the CBJ chief said that so far this year, and up to the month of September, the overall economic and financial outlook is promising, with the economic indicators continuously moving in the right direction.

Inflation has been strictly brought under control and is not expected to exceed three per cent this year.

The current account has shown a considerable improvement as the deficit narrowed from 3.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1996, to 1.7 per cent of GDP.

Imports have dropped by 5.25 per cent for the average of the first nine months of 1997, compared with the same period in 1996, and exports have increased by 7.4 per cent over the same period.

Furthermore, net investment flows more than tripled to a total of \$320 million (January to September 1997) compared with \$100 million over the same period in 1996.

Expatriates' remittances also registered a seven per cent rise to about \$1.3 billion, while foreign exchange reserves remain high at a healthy level of \$1.6 billion.

Finally, market-based monetary policy instruments have become more effective, and the reaction of banks and other economic activities to the changes in monetary management has been improving.

Dr. Fariz remarked: "I am sure that banks will reflect these changes on their interest rate structure."

## Asia crisis to hit U.S., world growth — Greenspan

WASHINGTON (R) — Problems in Asia are set to dent growth prospects in the United States and the world but may not do much to alleviate potential inflation pressures, Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday.

"These contagion problems could slow down overall world economic growth, including our own, and the sooner we can get them resolved the better," Mr. Greenspan told U.S. lawmakers in a hearing on the crisis that has swept through Southeast Asia.

"It is in everybody's interest, and especially the interests of the United States, that this weakness in the Asian economic and financial system be reversed as quickly as feasible," the central bank chief added.

In his appearance before the house banking

committee, Mr. Greenspan acknowledged that the Southeast Asian turmoil may reduce inflationary pressures in the United States, but insisted that the effect will be relatively minor.

"The forces that have emerged out of the Southeast Asian difficulties are imparting a disinflationary aspect on the United States and others. I am not saying that they are dominant or overwhelming ... they are a force but they are not at this stage the severe dominant force in this country,"

His comments — which in large part mirrored his first detailed assessment of the crisis two weeks ago — had little impact on the nation's financial markets. Analysts said Mr. Greenspan's word had done little to soothe investors' concerns over

continued fallout from the turmoil in Asia.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed the day up 86.44 points at 7,487.76, erasing earlier losses. Bond markets shrugged off the remarks.

Mr. Greenspan added that the effect of slower growth in Asia on U.S. exports to the region were also expected to be modest.

"To date, the direct impact of these developments on the American economy has been modest, but it can be expected not to be negligible," Mr. Greenspan said.

John Lipsky, chief economist at Chase Manhattan Bank, forecast in separate testimony that Asia's financial crisis

will shave 0.5 to 1.0 percentage point off U.S. economic growth next year, helping to ease inflation fears.

Economic woes in the once-booming Southeast Asian region have hurt markets worldwide, triggering the biggest one-day point drop in U.S. stocks on Oct. 27.

Heightened market volatility was widely seen as having kept Fed policy-makers from raising key U.S. interest rates at their latest meeting on Wednesday despite warning signs of overheating in the U.S. economy.

Unemployment is at its lowest level in 24 years, prompting fears that wage pressures will eventually ignite inflation, particularly since the economy continues to grow at a pace that is considered unsustainable by most economists.

Mr. Greenspan, who

two weeks ago welcomed the stock drop as a "salutary event" that may help keep the buoyant U.S. economy from overheating by curbing consumer spending, suggested the so-called "Asian Tigers" were set to run into problems after experiencing years of exceptionally high growth rates.

"Perhaps it was inevitable that the impressive and rapid growth experienced by the economies in the Asia region would run into a temporary slowdown or pause," he said.

Adding that there may be light at the end of the tunnel yet, he said: "But there is no reason that above-average growth in countries that are still in a position to gain from catching up with the prevailing technology cannot persist for a very long time."

Still, both Mr.

Greenspan and Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, testifying alongside him, told the committee that it was in the United States' best interest to provide temporary help for the ailing region if and where needed.

They said that the aid should be channelled through the International Monetary Fund, which has already engineered multi-billion dollar international bailouts for Thailand and for Indonesia, two of the hardest-hit countries.

Mr. Summers earlier said Asia's woes were unlikely to hurt U.S. banks. "We do not foresee significant risk to United States financial institutions or to domestic financial stability as a whole as a result of the turbulence to date," he said in remarks that were mirrored by Mr. Greenspan.

### THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

1 Oscar Medison, for one

5 Up

10 Campus area

14 Accompanied by

15 Audacious

16 Work technique

17 Inter —

18 Late of "Hairspray"

19 Molding

20 "Papers" (Dickens)

22 Conceals

24 Ocean movement

25 Gumbo

26 Bird talk?

29 More rapid

33 "Blue" (old song)

34 Preclude

36 Move furiously

37 Soft mineral

39 Isaac's mother

41 Seattle — (racehorse)

42 Root

44 Hebrew prophet

46 Comp. pt.

47 Shrew

49 Wild sheep

51 Stuntman

52 Krievial

52 Goss astray

53 Bizet opera

56 Spreads lavishly

60 Sandwich cookie

61 Oracular

63 VIP

64 Taper off, in a way

65 Wharton or Head

66 Hayworth or Moran

67 Woman

68 Street show

69 Editor's note

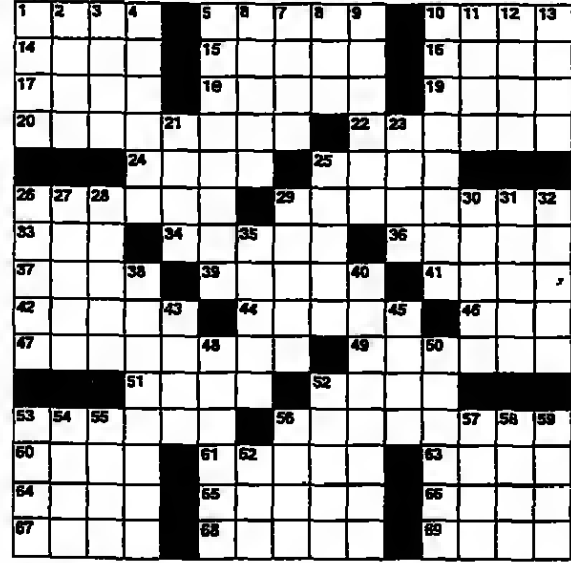
DOWN

1 Exchange

2 Leslie Caron film

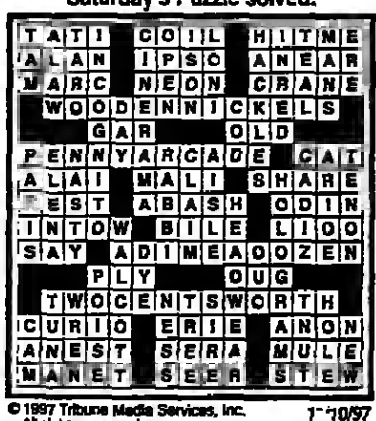
3 Of the ear

4 Hindu way to salvation



by Vivian O. Collins

Saturday's Puzzle solved:



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5 Condenses  
6 Instant  
7 Word with ward and wash  
8 Question  
9 Actor Alan  
10 Sienkiewicz novel  
11 Egg on  
12 Rippling factor  
13 Colors  
14 Coil  
23 Mine finds  
25 First name in TV  
26 Unsuspected drawback  
27 Sloutan language  
28 Ocean vessel  
29 Kitchen wrap  
30 Wamed the engine  
31 Actress  
32 Committed bigamy?  
35 Inspired  
36 Empty form

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.  
FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1997

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) It's Sadie Hawkins Day. Women get to ask men to do whatever they want. This could be a date or any number of other things. You're an assertive type anyway, and this gives you a good reason to say exactly what's on your mind. Have a great time while you're at it.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't talk about your money today, or anything pertaining to it. You could create jealousy and all sorts of difficult situations. No matter how much others beg you to tell them how you manage to get by on so little, keep your secrets to yourself. That'll be easier said than done.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are naturally a good communicator. You see it as your duty to make sure others get all the information they need. Some people, however, use information for bargaining chips. So be careful. Think before you speak. It sounds so simple, doesn't it?

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Conditions today are good for surprises. Some of the information going around today is true, and some of it is complete fabrication. It will be difficult to tell which is which until the dust settles. Just soak it all up, but don't believe everything you hear.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Have a whole batch of friends over to your house tonight. Play games, talk, eat good food and goof off. It's Sadie Hawkins Day. This used to be the one day in the year that women ask men to marry them. Now it happens all the time. Celebrate that.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) The moon is in Gemini today. Gemini and Virgo make something akin to spiritual carbonated water. You bubble and fizz and marvellous things can happen. Sometimes, though, it can be sort of irritating. If somebody's trying to get you stirred up for no good reason, simply decline.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Gather up friends and possibly your sweetheart and go somewhere fun. If there's an amusement park nearby, that's a possibility. Since you're all intellectual types, you might prefer a place where you can learn, like a museum or art gallery. Just don't stay home alone.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You could get a few outrageous propositions today. Keep your sense of humour, as well as your sense of decorum. If you want to go along with something, great. If not, simply say no. Stay in control, and you'll be fine either way.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) It's Sadie Hawkins day, the traditional time when women get to make outrageous requests. If you're a woman, you've probably thought of dozens by now. If you're a man, expect a few weird suggestions. Some will be fun and frolicky, others will be convincing and manipulative. Ignore the latter.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your efforts could lead to an increase in your allowance. Conditions are favourable for money coming in. Is it time for a garage sale? Perhaps someone needs a job done. Make yourself available to the one most likely to pay for your services. You don't have to do this for free.

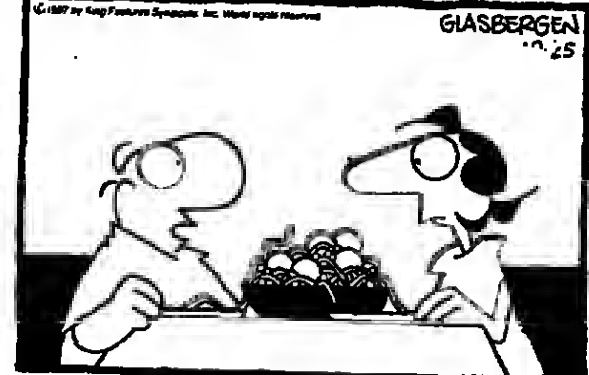
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You'll be in the mood to get outrageous today. While some people find your suggestions amusing, others might get tweaked. You can probably tell which will do what before you even ask. You don't have to inhibit your creativity, but you should use your good sense.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You'd like to get away this weekend, but it looks like people are coming to visit. What to do? Well, you could postpone travel plans until later. Or you could try to do it all. You do well under these conditions, so just relax and enjoy it.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

### THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"I'm trying to be more careful about my fat and cholesterol. The meatballs are tangennines."

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUMIC

HICCK

REKALT

VISTEN

Answer: HIS

Yesterday's

Jumbles: BASSO MOUNT PARLOR LACKEY

Answer: Why the office worker wore loud plaid shirt stripes — TO LOOK "BUSY"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answer: Yummy)

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## World Cup playoffs

## Italians enjoy home advantage against Russia

NAPLES (AFP) — Italy turn out against Russia here on Saturday night for their biggest match since losing the 1994 World Cup final to Brazil at the Pasadena Rose Bowl.

Some 71,000 fans will pack the San Paolo stadium, which once trembled before the footballing feats of Diego Maradona, in the hope of seeing their team reach the 1998 World Cup finals.

The Russians may have nothing to lose, but coach Cesare Maldini has home advantage, a better team and an away goal from their 1-1 draw in Moscow ready to count double if the match finishes 0-0.

And he is determined to look on the bright side.

"I'm optimistic," he said, just before leaving Italy's training base in Rome. "I keep telling the team, we've got to go out there and play, with no regrets and no second thoughts."

"The squad are all fit and available, and now I just have to calmly choose who to use."

Most of the betting is that he will opt for a more conservative 5-3-2 formation, headed by Lazio centre-forward Pierluigi Casiraghi, chapter-

oned by one of two creative players — Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola or Alessandro Del Piero of Juventus.

No surprises are expected, though, in midfield. Dino Baggio, Roberto Di Matteo and Demetrio Albertini, who is currently shaking off a bad sore throat, have all been pencilled in.

Skipper Paolo Maldini, who needs to shake off the lasting effects of an ankle injury, will take the left flank in defence. Gianluca Pesotto gets the right flank, while Ciro Ferrara and Alessandro Cannavaro — who were both born and bred in this city, and who used to play for Napoli — will be the central defenders.

Maldini's AC Milan teammate, Alessandro Costacurta, will stand between the back four and Juventus goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi.

"5-3-2 and 4-4-2 are just numbers, which some people understand and others don't," said Maldini Sr. "But in the end, football is simple stuff really, there's nothing you can invent."

"Obviously, Saturday's is an ordinary game, we know there's a great deal at stake," he added. "But I'm in no particular frame of mind. I've

lived through a lot of times that are as intense as this."

The coach is certainly counting on the crowd, revealing that it was his choice to play the return leg in a city which brought the world the pizza.

"It was partly for the climate and partly for good luck, because it was in Naples that we beat Poland in the qualifying campaign," he said. "I'm expecting a lot of support — but we'll have to deserve it."

"The national team has always been given a warm reception there, but it's down to us to get people excited and to earn their applause."

Italy have a good record at the San Paolo with 12 wins, five draws and just three defeats in the 20 times they have played here.

Against that record, though, is the fact that Naples also witnessed Italy's exit from the 1990 World Cup semi-finals, after a penalty shoot-out with Maradona's Argentina.

Cannavaro, now just turned 24, was a ball-boy at the match.

"The disappointment is an indelible memory," he said, "even though it was made that little bit easier by being Diego's team who went

through."

This time, however, FIFA have introduced a 'golden goal' if the score is deadlocked at 1-1, before going on to the roulette of a penalty shoot-out.

The rule, used successfully by Germany in the Euro 96 final at Wembley, ends the match when the first goal is scored during extra-time.

Maldini was the coach of Italy's Under-21 squad when they won the European championships in 1994 in France, thanks to a golden goal in the final at Montpellier.

In fact, there has been only one disappointment in the run-up to Saturday's match — namely that, to the disgust of many Italians, several thousand match tickets have fallen into the hands of tourists.

Cut-price tickets priced at 20,000 lira (\$11), designed to encourage popular support, were already changing hands for 80,000 lira by midweek.

Resentment here has been fuelled by the fact that the proceeds of legitimate ticket sales are all destined for Italy's earthquake victims.



Dallas Mavericks Kevin Ollie grimaces as he collides with Philadelphia 76ers Scott Williams drawing the foul in the first half of play November 13 in Dallas. The 76ers beat the Mavericks 99-98 (Reuters photo)

## Iverson's 31 lead 76ers over Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — Allen Iverson scored 31 points, including a key 3-pointer with 1:37 left, and the Philadelphia 76ers handed the Dallas Mavericks their fourth consecutive defeat, 99-98 Thursday night.

Jerry Stackhouse added 21 points and connected on a 3-pointer with 2:20 remaining to give the 76ers the lead for good, 90-88. Iverson's 3-pointer from the left wing on Philadelphia's next possession extended the 76ers' lead to 93-88.

Derrick Coleman contributed 25 points and 14 rebounds for the 76ers.

Shawn Bradley paced the Mavericks with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

Wizards 91, Timberwolves 88, OT: In Minneapolis, Rod Strickland scored six of his 21 points in overtime, redeeming himself for two missed shots at the end of regulation, as Washington defeated Minnesota.

Chris Webber added 22 points and 17 rebounds for the Wizards, while Calbert Cheaney added 12 points.

Tom Gugliotta had his worst shooting night of the season, going 4-of-23 from the field with a season-low 13 points. Kevin Garnett had the first 20-20 night of his career, registering 20 points and a career-high 20 rebounds. Chris Carr added 18 points for the Wolves.

Cavaliers 85, Nets 74: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Wesley Persoo scored 20 points, including eight during a 10-0 burst to close the third quarter, as Cleveland Cavaliers beat injury-riddled New Jersey.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas also scored 20 and Brevin Knight added 12 for the Cavs, who overcame 26 rebounds by Jayson Williams of the Nets.

Sam Cassell scored 32 points for New Jersey, which lost its second in a row following four straight wins to open the season. The Nets had only nine players available and lost forward Chris Gatling to a sprained right ankle in the third quarter.

Lakers 109, Spurs 100, OT: In San

Antonio, Shaquille O'Neal scored 34 points and Los Angeles extended its season-opening win streak to six games.

The Lakers erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter and tied the game at 96-all with 7.1 seconds left on Nick Van Exel's jumper from just inside the 3-point line.

Los Angeles then outscored San Antonio 13-4 in overtime as the Spurs struggled to get off a good shot against the Lakers' aggressive defence.

David Robinson had 27 points and 14 rebounds for San Antonio, which fell to 6-2 following the matchup of teams with the two best records in the Western Conference. Tim Duncan added 19 points and 13 rebounds.

Bucks 102, Clippers 94: In Los Angeles, Glenn Robinson scored 32 points — his third straight game with 30 or more — and Ray Allen added 23 as Milwaukee held off the Clippers.

The Bucks opened a 21-point lead in the first half behind the solid shooting of Robinson and Allen, who combined for 36 of Milwaukee's first 58 points.

Lamond Murray scored 25 points for Los Angeles, still looking for its second win of the season. The Clippers' fourth home game attracted just 4,300 fans to the 16,021-seat sports arena.

Supersonics 95, Pistons 89: In Seattle, Gary Payton had 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and Vin Baker added 24 points and 11 rebounds as Seattle held on to beat Detroit.

Seattle led 85-73 in the fourth quarter before the Pistons rallied with a 16-5 run. Lindsey Hunter's 3-point shot made it 90-89 with 2:05 left, but Payton hit two free throws with 1:53 left for a 92-89 lead.

Aaron McKie missed a shot from the corner with 45 seconds left and Detlef Schrempf made two free throws for Seattle with 24 seconds left to secure the victory. Grant Hill had 20 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for Detroit.

## Irish fired up as they face Belgium

DUBLIN (AFP) — The Republic of Ireland head into Saturday's play-off decider against Belgium in Brussels fired up by accusations that they are a second-rate footballing nation compared to their hosts.

Irish hopes of reaching their successive World Cup Finals have been all but written off after the Belgians outplayed them — and even out-muscled them — in the 1-1 draw in Dublin two weeks ago.

Republic manager Mick McCarthy snapped when asked if he thought that George Leekens' team had made enough chances in Dublin to have won the contest at a canter.

He insisted: "I've looked at the tape of the match and really, they did not have many clear-cut chances."

"They had a lot of the play and are entitled to feel confident on Saturday but I won't have it that they opened up our defence too many times."

"Apart from their goal, our keeper Shay Givens made one brilliant save with his right knee

when two players were through on him, but he was over left one on one apart from that."

"Belgium also hit the bar from 30 yards but that was a case of somebody making an opportunity. It wasn't my goalkeeper being left exposed. Some people are talking about something that wasn't there."

McCarthy denied that his players are going into the second leg already thinking they have blown their best chance.

He said: "They are quietly confident and looking forward to it just as I am. I won't let people put me under pressure with negative thoughts."

McCarthy won't name his team until an hour before the kick off but there are signs he could hand a third cap to Derby County's Lee Carsley in a holding role between defence and midfield to curb Belgian star Luc Nilis.

Former Ireland hero Frank Stapleton says the Irish relish the role of underdogs and will not mind being written off.

Stapleton, the Republic's all-time leading goalscorer, says: "It

appears to be a situation where Ireland have little chance, but this is where they can be at their most dangerous."

"I know it's going to be difficult and I don't think many people are expecting us to go through, but I remain optimistic."

"People are saying Roy Keane and Denis Irwin are not there and Mick has had problems with people pulling out. But I think this is when Ireland are at their most determined."

McCarthy admits he does not know how the Belgians, who need just a goalless draw in 90 minutes to make their fifth successive world cup finals appearance, will approach the return.

He said: "I've no idea — not a clue. Apparently they have injury problems but I know the way I'll play and the lads know it too. They are happy with it."

## Italy coach slams World Cup rules

ROME (AFP) — Italy coach Cesare Maldini condemned FIFA's qualifying system for the 1998 World Cup finals on Thursday, claiming it was unfair to have Europeans playing-off at the expense of countries like Jamaica.

Italy face Russia on Saturday in the second leg of their European zone play-off, after the 1994 finalists finished second behind England in Group 2. Three other European play-offs are also scheduled the same day.

But two days after Russian coach Boris Ignatiev slammed the system as unjust, Maldini added his own criticism of world football's ruling body.

"The rules are unfair," Maldini said. "It's turning out to be a 'massacre', the fact that teams who finish second in their group do not qualify automatically."

"It's out of this world the idea that countries like Russia or Italy have to be left out — in favour of Jamaica, or similar footballing countries."

Jamaica need only a draw in Kingston on Sunday against Mexico to book their first ever World Cup place, at the expense of El Salvador, in the CONCACAF zone covering North and Central America and the Caribbean.

## Full house for Japan-Iran play-off

JOHOR BAHRU (AFP) — More than 22,000 tickets for this weekend's World Cup play-off here between Japan and Iran have been snapped up in less than two days, guaranteeing a sell-out stadium, officials said Friday.

"Soccer fans, many of them Japanese from neighbouring Singapore, have snapped up tickets at the Larkin Stadium here since sales started on Wednesday," said an official of Football Association of Malaysia (FAM).

Tickets for the grandstand

priced at 150 ringgit (\$50) went within hours of the sales booths opening, while the 50 ringgit tickets for the uncovered terrace were sold out on Thursday, he said.

Despite the sell-out for Sunday's crucial match, demand for tickets continued, he added.

FAM assistant secretary Yap Nyim Keong was reported saying that both Japan and Iran had requested private training sessions, and tight security measures would be in place for both teams.

The Johor Tourists Guides Association was reported Friday asking for additional manpower from its counterparts in Kuala Lumpur and southwest Malacca state to cope with some 6,000 Japanese soccer fans.

The association requested more tour guides to help handle 150 tour coaches expected from Singapore on Sunday, the New Straits Times reported.

"The event is the first ever to attract such a large number of tourists from a single country to Johore," association

chairman Jimmy Leong was quoted as saying.

Leong said the association would notify the immigration and customs departments of the buses arrival so adequate manpower would be deployed at the checkpoints for speedy clearance.

The winner of the match qualifies for the World Cup, while the loser will have to play Australia for the fourth Asian berth. South Korea and Saudi Arabia have already ensured their places at France '98.

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## Jordan holds Korea's L.G. team to 1-1 draw

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The combined team of the Kingdom's Premier League teams Friday drew 1-1 with South Korea's L.G. Chee-tahs team in the match held on the Occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Nat Yaday equalised for Jordan in the final minutes of the match in which Jordanian players showed an advanced form but lost chances to beat the visiting Korean team.

The 32-member L.G. delegation had arrived in Amman Thursday and were met by Jordan Football Association (JFA) officials.

Upon arrival a senior L.G. official said his company was ready to sponsor a leading Premier League club in Jordan.

The L.G. team which boasts five professional players three of which helped the

Korean national team qualify to the World Cup, is currently on a mid-east visit and have so far played in Iran winning 1-0 while they drawing 2-2 with Bahrain and 1-1 with Yemen.

As part of their preparations to face the Koreans, the Jordanian team played two matches beating the Royal Guard team 3-2 and the Amman Municipality 2-0.

Fans attending the match enjoyed an exhibition by Huh Nam-Jin, a record holder in soccer acrobatics in the Guinness Book of Records.

The visit by the Korean team came after a sponsorship agreement between L.G. and JFA the whereby the former agreed to sponsor the match and offered T.V. and VCR sets to Premier League clubs as well as the JFA and the Sports Media Federation.

The L.G. team is a six-time Korean champion winning the league in 1985, 86, 89, 90, 93, and 94.

## Singh, aged 105, sure of clean sweep

WELLINGTON (R) — Joginder Singh is a certainty to make a clean sweep of prizes in the 105-years-and-over section at an athletic meet in New Zealand, the New Zealand Press Association reported on Friday.

The 105-year-old Indian will compete alone in his age group, running, throwing and jumping in the Oceania veteran championships in the north island town of Hastings in January.

Singh, a Sikh from northern India, claims the world record for the men's 95-years-and-over long jump of 4.15 metres, which he set in 1990.

His passport, which was provided to the organisers as proof of age, shows he was born in Patiala on June 12, 1892, making him the oldest of the 500 entrants by 20 years.

## 13th Arab Champions Cup Wihdat lose opening match to Saudi Arabia's Ahli Jeddah

By Aileen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S soccer champions Al Wihdat Friday lost 3-1 to Saudi Arabia's Ahli Jeddah in the opening match of 13th Arab Champions Cup hosted by Al Ahli Club of Tunisia Nov. 14-23.

Al Wihdat were unimpressive throughout the first half which the Saudis won 1-0 by a goal from Brazilian Sergi Ricardo in the 43rd minute.

The Saudis took a 2-0 lead through Ibrahim Suayd nine minutes into the second half which they totally dominated until the final five minutes when Al Wihdat's Munir Abu Hanash scored his team's consolation goal.

Ahli Jeddah's Ricardo then scored his second and his team's third goal two minutes from the end of the match as the Saudis set off to an impressive start to the eight-team championship.

Al Wihdat are playing in Group A alongside Ahli Jeddah, Widat Talmasan of Algeria and hosts Al Ahli.

Group B includes Al Safaqi of Tunisia, Egypt's Al Ahli, Kuwait's Kathima, and Al Ama'ri of Palestine.

Playing their third Champions Cup, Al Wihdat's group is tough, yet the team has voiced hope of moving to the second round and securing an advanced position in the championship which has been dominated by Saudi and Iraqi teams in 9 of the past 12 championships.

Al Wihdat, holders of the Kingdom's Premier League, are in top form after impressive results and an unbeaten record in the league which they currently lead halfway through.

They will next be playing Talmasan on Sunday and Al Ahli Nov. 18.

The top two teams of each group will advance to the second round which starts Nov. 21 and the

championship concludes Nov. 23.

Each competing team will get \$5,000 from the Arab Soccer Federation who will also cover air-fare and accommodation.

The winning team will receive \$50,000, the runner-up \$30,000, while the third and fourth finishers will split \$25,000.

Since its inception, Jordanian participation in the event has been intermittent.

Al Ahli took part in the inaugural competition in 1981 finishing last among the three competing teams.

Al Faisali were the only Jordanian team to advance to the second round in 1993.

Al Hussein were the third team to represent Jordan in 1993 but were eliminated in the first round.

Al Wihdat were knocked out in the first round in 1995. As Jordanian champions they took part in 1996 again failing to advance beyond the first round.

Looking back at the archives of the event, Jordanian teams won three of 15 matches they played, drew in two and lost in 10.

As for Al Wihdat's chances, the team seems well-prepared and have been training under Iraqi coach Anwar Jassam.

Beside their impressive league record, Al Wihdat recently reached the semi-finals of the Jordan Cup alongside Al Hussein, Al Ramtha and Al Faisali.

Earlier in the year, Al Wihdat also took part in the Cup Winners' Cup in Cairo and were impressive against well-known teams.

The team includes 12 internationals who have represented Jordan on the national team as well as regional competitions with their club.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Atkinson made Sheffield Wednesday manager

LONDON (AFP) — Sheffield Wednesday chairman Dave Richards on Friday confirmed that Ron Atkinson was the England Premier club's new manager but revealed that he was only on a short-term contract until the end of the season. Richards admitted that Atkinson, who upset Wednesday fans when he left the club in 1991 for Aston Villa, had had regrets about the walkout. Richards was asked by BBC Radio if he was taking a risk bringing back Atkinson after the storm over his departure. "What happened in the past is put behind you," he said. "We all do things at times that we possibly regret. I have no doubts that Ron regrets some of the things he did. But he had a love affair with Wednesday and we are giving him a second chance."

### Seeds through in Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Seeded players Lindsay Davenport of the United States, Irina Spirlea of Romania and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain all won their second-round matches at the WTA event here Thursday. Fifth-seed Davenport beat Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-3, 6-0, number seven Spirlea saw off Venezuela's Maria Alejandra Vento 6-2, 6-1 and eighth-seed Sanchez-Vicario defeated Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-1, 7-6 (7/4). In the day's final match Germany's Anke Huber beat Lisa Raymond of the United States 2-6, 6-2, 7-5.

### Barcelona crash at Bilbao

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish first division pacemakers Barcelona had their league lead over rivals Real Madrid and Celta Vigo cut to a single point Thursday when they crashed 3-0 at Athletic Bilbao. Goals from Ziganda (40), Alkiza (49) and Urzaiz (70) sunk Barcelona who now have 25 points from 11 matches. It was Barcelona's third defeat in a row. They

were badly beaten 4-0 in the European Champions League by Dynamo Kiev and went down 2-1 at home to Valladolid in their last league match.

### Germany without Klinsmann today

COLOGNE (AFP) — Skipper Juergen Klinsmann has withdrawn from Germany's friendly against South Africa in Duesseldorf on Saturday citing lack of fitness after seven weeks away with torn ligaments in his foot. "A game against South Africa would be too early for me. I still have to catch up my form in terms of agility and coordination," the 32 year old striker said. "I am not yet in the right physical condition for an international." As a nominated member of Bert Vogts he still travelled to Duesseldorf on Tuesday, but primarily to help negotiate the players' fees for next year's World Cup finals. The German Football Federation will pay out 3.3 million marks if it captures a fourth world title, with each player receiving 150,000 marks — a 25,000 mark increase on the payment Germany's 1990 champions were issued.

### Gaal reads riot act

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona's Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal has read the riot act after a second successive league defeat allowed rivals Real Madrid to close the gap to one point. "There's little positive in that performance. Some players are not accepting their responsibilities," he said after they crashed 3-0 at Athletic Bilbao. Barcelona face Celta Vigo, third and also just one point behind the leaders, on Sunday. Any more dropped points should allow Real Madrid, who are at home to fourth-from-bottom Valladolid on Monday, to take over at the top. A defeat would also increase the pressure coming on Van Gaal whose leaking three-man defence experiment has angered fans.

## Sampras sends Rafter crashing

HANOVER (AFP) — Pete Sampras imposed his game on Patrick Rafter for the eighth straight time on Friday, scoring a 6-4, 6-1 win to knock the Australian out of the semifinals for a sixth consecutive year. "I knew it would be a good day when I saw that my returns were good," Sampras qualified from the Red round-robin group by virtue of his straight-sets win in one hour. That scoreline also gave Spain's Carlos Moya the second semifinal place from the group.

Rafter, Moya and Sampras all finished with 2-1 records, but the three-time holder Sampras and Moya earned the places due to highest percentage of sets and games won respectively.

Swede Jonas Bjorkman was facing world No. 2 Michael Chang later with the winner joining Sampras, Moya and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the final four at the season wrap-up tournament.

U.S. Open champion Rafter beat Sampras the first time they met, in August, 1993 at Indianapolis, but since then has lost eight times to the World No. 1. Sampras won in straight sets in September

in the final of the Grand Slam Cup, their last meeting before Hanover.

"I'm on cloud nine. Everything was perfect today," said Sampras, now into the semifinals for a sixth consecutive year. "I knew it would be a good day when I saw that my returns were good."

"I'm disappointed," said Rafter. "He loves my style of play. This lack of success against him is really annoying."

"I woke up today eager to play. I was trying to win a set and get into the semifinals — it just didn't happen."

"But I've got to beat him someday. This is a real let-down. But I've got a great year. I've got to get myself back up and look forward to next season."

Sampras overwhelmed Rafter in front of a crowd which was keen for a Rafter win. Sampras struck 28 winners to Rafter's 13 and had a mere 10 unforced errors.

In a meaningless match in the evening, Kafelnikov was to play Briton Tim Henman, the second injury substitute to be utilised this week.



Carlos Moya of Spain hits the ball during his match against Austrian Thomas Muster at the Tennis World Championships in Hanover. Moya won the match 6-3, 6-3 (Reuters photo)

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## Division crown at hand for 49ers with 5 weeks remaining

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — San Francisco could become the first National Football League club to qualify for the playoffs by beating Carolina here Sunday — a remarkable feat after a bleak start by the 49ers.

The 49ers are 9-1, equal with Denver for the best record in American football and one game ahead of reigning NFL champion Green Bay and Minnesota in the race for home-field advantage in the playoffs.

Beating Carolina (5-5) will seal the NFC West division crown for a club that lost star receiver Jerry Rice and quarterback Steve Young to injuries in a 13-6 season-opening upset loss to Tampa Bay.

"This one becomes a big game for us," coach Steve Mariucci said. "I know it's big for them to stay alive in the race. But to clinch the division this early against a team we have to knock off and detrone, this is it."

"This is another playoff atmosphere-type football game for us. Hopefully, we're healthy enough and fresh enough to do it again, sky-high again. But this is what we're aiming for." The 49ers already know the advantage a home-field can bring, having ral-

lied late to beat visiting Dallas 17-10 earlier this season.

Anything that keeps the pass-minded 49er attack out of frigid Green Bay in January's often-snowy conditions will be a plus for the team's title hopes.

Young missed only one game after a concussion five plays into the opener and Rice, while sidelined, has been teaching younger replacements J.J. Stokes

and Terrell Owens the moves that made him the NFL's most prolific touchdown scorer. San Francisco also boasts the NFL's stingiest defence.

With five weeks remaining in the season, Denver also faces a key division test at Kansas City. The Broncos (9-1) are two games ahead of the host Chiefs and beat them 19-3 earlier this season.

The Broncos own a two-

game edge on Jacksonville and Pittsburgh in the fight for AFC home-field playoff advantage. Denver began 12-1 last year before being upset in the playoffs.

Another key showdown Sunday finds Washington at Dallas. The Redskins

won earlier and Cowboy coach Barry Switzer has been fighting off rumors of imminent firing if Dallas does not improve on a 5-5 mark.

Other games Sunday find Arizona at the New York Giants, Green Bay at winless Indianapolis, Oak-

land at San Diego, Atlanta at St. Louis, New England at Tampa Bay, Minnesota at Detroit, Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, Tennessee at Jacksonville, Seattle at New Orleans, Philadelphia at Baltimore and the New York Jets at Chicago. Buffalo visits Miami Monday.

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## Albright backs off from blaming Netanyahu for Mideast deadlock

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright backed away from outright criticism of Israel for the continuing deadlock in the Middle East peace process during talks here Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Commentators have taken Bill Clinton's decision, the first time ever for a U.S. president, not to meet the Israeli premier when he visits the United States Sunday as a measure of American anger at Mr. Netanyahu's insistence on building new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

But at a joint press conference Ms. Albright made no criticism of Israel, saying only that she was "reserving judgement" at what had been achieved at Friday's "very useful" discussions.

Stressing the need to "narrow the gaps" between the Palestinians and the Israelis, Ms. Albright repeatedly said it was "essential" to move the process forward.

"It is time for move forward. I believe that time is being lost," she said, adding she would be repeating the same message when she met Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat in Bern, Switzerland on Saturday.

Saturday.

"I am reserving judgement until after I see Chairman Arafat, and I see some results. Then I will be able to take my first stroke," she said, referring to her previous remark that she was merely "treading water" with previous attempts to move the process forward.

"It is essential for both sides to live up to their agreements and not take any steps that could complicate the process."

Mr. Netanyahu described the talks as "useful" and "comprehensive, serious, to the point."

Declining to elaborate on the details of the discussions, he said: "I think a way forward can be found, we are looking for that way. With goodwill and effort we hope we will find a path."

Referring to the Palestinians, he added: "We look to see an equal commitment on the other side. Everything we discuss involves reciprocity."

The pair also discussed the growing crisis in Iraq, with Mr. Netanyahu saying he supported American efforts to find a suitable end to Iraqi defiance of the United Nations.

"We live in a tough neighbourhood," he remarked.

## Netanyahu says peace easier than 'who's a Jew' crisis

LONDON (AFP) — Finding a solution to the "Who's a Jew" battle between progressive and Orthodox Jews is harder than achieving peace with the Palestinians, Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu said in London Thursday.

"On certain days, I think that getting agreement on this issue from the various denominational rabbis is probably more difficult than making peace with the Palestinians," he told Channel 4 television news.

Mr. Netanyahu, in Britain for an official three-day visit, was referring to the bid by progressive Jews in Israel to challenge the Orthodox rab-

bin's monopoly on conversions and other religious rites.

Asked to comment on threats by some Jewish groups from the progressive movements in the United States, which represent the vast majority of U.S. Jewry, although they are minority in Israel, the premier replied that "the issue is not money."

He said that "Israel does not need them for economic reasons. [but because] we are part of them and they are part of us."

"We are all Jews...all kosher," he said.

Asked if this included progressive Jews, Mr. Netanyahu replied: "Absolutely."

Earlier on Friday, Mr. Netanyahu insisted in a BBC interview that the Oslo accords signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September 1993 "in no way limit Israel's construction of settlement in existing settlements and existing communities."

On Thursday, British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Mr. Netanyahu in a meeting at Downing Street that there was an "urgent need" for the process to be moved forward and urged practical progress on a number of issues, particularly on the issue of new settlements.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook called the policy "unacceptable."

## Poll shows Israeli PM to lose election if held now

TEL AVIV (R) — An opinion poll published on Friday showed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would lose to opposition leader Ehud Barak if national elections were held now.

It was the third survey in two weeks in which Mr. Netanyahu trailed Mr. Barak and it showed the Labour Party chief's lead was getting bigger.

Forty-five per cent of those surveyed by Dahaf Institute for Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said they would vote for Mr. Barak if elections were held today against 33 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu. The rest said they would not vote or were "don't knows".

The poll surveyed 533 Israelis and had a four per cent margin of error, the newspaper said.

Israeli analysts said this week that Mr. Netanyahu's leadership was seriously threatened by leading members of his Likud Party who were angry over a perceived push by Mr. Netanyahu to boost his own power at their expense.

Others predicted the party's decision at a convention on Wednesday to rescind the rights of some 200,000 party members to select parliamentary candidates in open primaries would lead to a wave of grass roots resentment.

Mr. Netanyahu failed to live up to a promise to his ministers to shelve the proposal, drawing accusations of deception.

A national election is scheduled for 2000. Early elections would be called only if 61 legislators in the 120-member parliament were to vote no-confidence in Mr. Netanyahu.

A Dahaf survey published in Yedioth Ahronoth on Oct. 31 showed 45 per cent would vote for Mr. Barak and 38 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu. A Gallup poll published in Maariv newspaper on the same day gave Mr. Barak 42 per cent to Mr. Netanyahu's 40 per cent.

## Iraq crisis seen helping S. African arms sales

CAPE TOWN (R) — The Iraqi crisis, erupting on the eve of a visit to Saudi Arabia by President Nelson Mandela, could not have come at a better time for South African arms sales, military analysts said on Friday.

Defence Minister Joe Modise and Energy Minister Penuell Maduna will accompany President Mandela on the visit he starts on Saturday.

The main trade item on the agenda is expected to be a mooted oil-for-arms swap, in which South Africa would provide Saudi Arabia with around \$1.6 billion in arms, mainly its world-leading G6 long-distance artillery system.

South Africa is also negotiating an arms deal worth about 4.0 billion rand with Kuwait.

"Given what is happening in the region... I'm pretty sure Saudi Arabia and Kuwait want to discuss arms deals with everyone," said Bill Sass, a researcher at the Independent Institute for Security Studies think tank.

He said the Saudis would be interested in a wide range of arms.

"The situation that existed a couple of months ago when the deal first came up, trying for the best deal, the best concessions, that time has passed for them."

Mr. Sass said the increasing tensions in the Gulf meant the diplomatic importance of President Mandela's visit to Riyadh would take second place to arms-delivery schedules.

"Far more than the fact that here comes President Mandela, they'd rather say 'man, get out your weapon dealers, you go over there and do the protocol and all that and we'll get on with the business'," he said.

The latest Gulf crisis began simmering two weeks ago when Iraq refused to allow Americans to take part in weapons inspections by a U.N. team.

The U.N. Security Council late on Thursday condemned Iraq's expulsion of six American inspectors on the team and demanded that it be rescinded immediately, warning President Saddam Hussein's "serious consequences" if it failed to comply.



CLIMBING UP SARASWATI: Chottu, or the small one, as he is called by the other mahouts, clambers up his elephant Saraswati, at the Gandok River in Sonapur, in the Indian state of Bihar on Friday. The elephants were brought to the river to give them a holy bath on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima. Over 75 elephants and thousands of other livestock, including cattle and horses, will be sold over the next three weeks at the Sonapur fair. Elephants, usually associated to the mythological Hindu God Ganesh, are given a bath on the Kartik Purnima day (AP photo)

## Eleven EU ambassadors return to Tehran — radio

TEHRAN (R) — Eleven European Union (EU) envoys returned to Tehran on Friday, more than six months after they were withdrawn in a row between Iran and Germany. Tehran Radio said.

It said the ambassadors of Greece, Sweden, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Spain, Holland, Austria, Denmark and Ireland and the British charge d'affaires arrived in Tehran on Friday morning, along with the ambassador of Switzerland, which is not an EU member.

It said the German ambassador would return in 10 days along with the French ambassador.

"The European Union had repeatedly said it would not accept any discrimination in the return of its envoys. But

it has been decided that the German ambassador will return to Tehran in 10 days," Tehran Radio said.

Based on reports, the French ambassador will accompany the German ambassador on his return to Tehran," the radio said.

The EU withdrew envoys from Tehran in April after a Berlin court rule that Iran's political leaders had ordered the killing of three Iranian Kurdish dissident leaders and their translator in a Berlin restaurant in 1992. Tehran denied any involvement.

Several weeks later the EU said the envoys could go back, but Iran said the German ambassador should be the last to return.

Diplomats said the EU had for months sought to

normalise relations with Tehran. But even after the relatively moderate Mohammad Khatami was elected president in June, Iran refused to bend.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA on Thursday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Tehran had agreed to an EU proposal stipulating that the German and French ambassadors would be the last to return.

Europe is keen to boost ties with the new Khatami government and rack up investment in the oil and gas-producing country.

In September, France's Total signed a \$2 billion deal with Iran to develop the country's huge offshore South Pars gas and condensate field.

## Islamic Jihad threatens attacks against Israel over prisoner on hunger strike

Combined agency dispatches

THE ISLAMIC Jihad group reiterated threats Friday to launch attacks against Israel if a Palestinian woman prisoner who has been on hunger strike for three weeks dies.

"If Itaf Al Ayyan dies, we will respond in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem," said an Islamic Jihad member during a demonstration in the autonomous West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Ayyan, 36, a Jihad member from the West Bank town of Bethlehem, has been on hunger strike since her arrest by Israeli soldiers on Oct. 21. She is refusing all medical treatment and demands for freedom.

A Palestinian human rights activist, Eissa Qaraqeh, said Ayyan, who has been moved to a prison hospital, began Thursday refusing water and was in "deteriorating condition."

The Islamic Jihad protest-

ers marched up to an Israeli army barricade near Rachel's Tomb, chanting "Death to the United States and Israel" and "Victory for Iraq."

Several Palestinians threw rocks at the soldiers, who retaliated by firing rubber bullets, but no-one was injured, witnesses said.

Ayyan, who is being held without charge under Israel's administrative detention laws, was arrested amid an attack against Islamist militants launched by the army in August.

She had already served nine years in an Israeli prison but was freed in a general release of 30 women prisoners by Israel in February.

Khaled Al Batsh, an Islamic Jihad activist in the Gaza Strip said on Thursday he had launched an open-ended hunger strike over Israel's detention without trial of the Palestinian woman.

"I decided individually to

launch an open-ended hunger strike and sit-in protest in solidarity with the captive Itaf Al Ayan and against all administrative detentions," Mr. Batsh told Reuters.

The 37-year-old said he had begun the strike three days ago at the international Red Cross building in Gaza City, giving up food and water.

A Palestinian prisoner support group on Thursday called for Ayyan's release, saying she had escalated her protest on Wednesday by refusing to drink water.

But this was denied by the spokeswoman for Israel's prisons authority Orit Messer-Harel, who told Reuters: "She is drinking water and is also taking supplements. She undergoes daily medical examinations and is in good health. We hope she will end her strike."



Britain's First Cat retires from politics

LONDON (AFP) — In a first high-profile resignation from the heart of Britain's Labour government, Humphrey the Downing Street cat is retiring from politics on medical advice, a spokesman said Thursday. Humphrey, a stray who took up residence in government offices in 1989, has seen world leaders come and go from his home in central London in a colourful career as Britain's First Cat. But on Thursday, a Downing Street spokesman said the 11-year-old had been suffering a kidney complaint for four years, making him inactive and lacking appetite. The black-and-white cat will pass the rest of his days in a London suburb with a member of staff who has cared for him since he first arrived.

## Volunteers hope Pope will unveil drinks can church replica

ROME (R) — A group of Italian charity workers said on Thursday they hoped to make it into the Guinness Book of Records with a huge replica of St. Peter's Basilica made out of drinks cans they hope Pope John Paul will unveil in December. "It's an exact replica of St. Peter's," said Giovanni Casei, one of around 40 volunteers who have been at work building the model on wasteland on the outskirts of Rome since mid-October. The volunteers, who hope to raise money for blood and organ donation charities, say the model will use 10 million cans. It will be 95 metres long, 48 metres wide and 29 metres high with a 20-metre wide dome — one fifth the size of the biggest church in Christendom.

## 105-year-old sure of a clean sweep in athletics meet

WELLINGTON (R) — Joginder Singh is a certainty to make a clean sweep of prizes in the 105-years-and-over section at an athletic meet in New Zealand, the New Zealand Press Association reported on Friday. The 105-year-old Indian will compete alone in his age group, running, throwing and jumping in the Oceania Veteran Championships in the north island, town of Hastings in January. Singh, a Sikh from northern India, claims the world record for the men's 95-years-and-over long jump of 4.15 metres, which he set in 1990. His passport, which was provided to the organisers as proof of age, shows he was born in Patiala on June 12, 1892, making him the oldest of the 500 entrants by 20 years.

## Man admits to filming up thousands of skirts

WELLINGTON (R) — A New Zealand man has admitted to using a miniature video camera to film up the skirts of thousands of unsuspecting women girls, the New Zealand Herald reported on Friday. David Overend, 36, caught by department internal affairs officers after he posted the rest of his exploits on Internet. A wire link turning up his trousers in his "shu-cam" camera allowed him to on and take video of thousands of women girls, mostly at events like horse races, rallies and boat races. Overend scanned images into his computer and traded them around the world by e-mail, and video tape. Auckland court heard

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